Loveliest of Trees

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Summary: **Sequel to Sweet & Delicate** **A Rewrite** Twilight goes back to the human world to check on Sunset Shimmer. While she's there, she, along with Fluttershy, witnesses a new student get bullied. When she offers help, she realizes that this new student is actually Coppermane's counterpart, and he & Fluttershy are smitten.

1. Rediscovery

**Hey people! You might be wondering what I'm up to. Well, I wanted to revise Loveliest of Trees. I feel that this is my best story, and I want to know what you all think. So I decided to make another story for it entirely so you guys could get notified. I hope that I can subtly make the revised chapters better. **

Here are the stats for the original story in case you're curious.

**Views: 7464
>Favorites: 27
Followers: 23
>Reviews: 119

Seriously, this is amazing for me. Thank you all for your support!

Anyways, without further ado, let's get this show on the road!

I don't own any of the MLP FiM characters, but I DO own Coppermane. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Loveliest of Trees<p>

Ch.1: Rediscovery

Time: 12:00 PM, Friday, Friendship Rainbow Kingdom Castle

It was a normal day for the main six and Coppermane. The gang lounged around while Twilight and Coppermane had a study session.

"Okay, Coppermane, one last time. Make sure your mind is clear." Twilight said.

"Okay," Coppermane said. He closed his eyes, and his horn began to glow. His face scrunched in concentration, but his horn's aura soon faded, leaving him short of breath.

"Ughâ€¦ it's no useâ€¦ I can't do itâ€¦" Coppermane said

"Are you okay, Coppermane?" Fluttershy asked.

"Yeah, I'm fine," Coppermane said, smiling at his marefriend.

"Don't worry, Coppermane. I know you'll get it," Fluttershy said, giving her coltfriend a nuzzle on the cheek.

Coppermane smiled, shuddering at the feeling of Fluttershy nuzzling him. He gave her a kiss on the cheek.

"Thanks," he said, giving her a smile.

Twilight and her friends giggled at their exchange. Coppermane's been here for a couple months now, and everypony loved having him around. He's been a great friend, helping Twilight learn some new spells, helping Applejack around the orchard, visiting Pinkie Pie at Sugarcube Corner every morning, and giving Rarity and Rainbow Dash some feedback on their work. Coppermane's even become somewhat of a celebrity since the Summer Sun Celebration. He always had ponies, mostly mares, coming up to him asking for either an autograph, a quick song, or both. He's even been asked to sing at some events, ranging from small gigs in Ponyville to being asked by Princess Cadence to come back to the Crystal Empire to sing for the whole city!

But Coppermane would consider all of these minute accolades compared to the biggest honor of all: being Fluttershy's special somepony. Twilight and her friends always knew the two ponies had crushes on each other, but also that they were both incredibly shy. It took a while, but when the news got out that they were finally an item, everypony was absolutely ecstatic. Twilight and her friends would be the first to notice that Fluttershy has been significantly happier since she started dating Coppermane, and they were so proud of her for finding her special somepony. Whenever all seven of them hung out together, they would always joke with the couple, usually about when they're going to get married. They would ask if they should start planning their wedding, Pinkie Pie would ask what flavor wedding cake they wanted, the five argued with each other about being Fluttershy's mare of honor; the list goes on.

Fluttershy and Coppermane knew their friends were just joking with them, but it did make the couple fantasize in their own heads about being married one day. Fluttershy has always entertained the idea of starting a family one day, and Coppermane always wanted be something that he never had in his life: a parent. It was a sensitive topic,

and the couple didn't really discuss it with each other. At the time being, they liked the bubble they had, and didn't want to rush things. Both of them were still quite knew to love, after all.

"You know, Twilight, maybe tomorrow we can start on the duplication spell. I think it's your turn to struggle," Coppermane said with a smirk. He could hear Fluttershy giggling behind him.

"I dunno," Rainbow Dash said, "She is the element of magic."

Twilight blushed, "Oh, I'm pretty sure I'll have trouble. It doesn't sound easy at all, but I've been anxious to start on it."

"Great! I can get some time to look over that materialization spell. That's one of the hardest spell I've ever tried to learn," Coppermane said. He looked over at Fluttershy, "Although, having you here helps."

Fluttershy blushed, "Oh, it's nothing, really. I just like watching you practice."

Now it was Coppermane's turn to blush. She was just the sweetest thing. He gave her a quick, yet tender kiss, eliticing a giggle from everypony else in the room.

"Oh, you two are just adorable!" Rarity said.

"When are you going to propose, Coppermane?" Pinkie Pie chimed in, "I already have your whole wedding planned!"

The couple blushed profusely.

"Pinkieâ€¦ pleaseâ€¦" Coppermane asked, blushing profusely.

"You never know!" Pinkie Pie said teasingly. The wave of embarrassment was subsided when Spike suddenly burped, and in his fire breath's wake, a letter materialized.

"A letter from the princess?" Applejack asked curiously.

Twilight wasted no time in levitating the letter over to her with her magic to read it. All of her friends gathered around her to hear what Princess Celestia wrote herâ€¦

â€¦

My Faithful Student Twilight,

I hope your studies are going well, and I hope Coppermane hasn't driven you and Spike too crazy! I have a request for you. I have been informed by an anonymous source that you possess a portal to Sunset Shimmer's world that it functional, and can be used at will. If you can, I want you to go back to her world and just check up on her. I know that you successfully curved her behavior, and I want to know how she's doing. I would do it myself, but I have royal duties. Besides, I'm sure your friends on the other side would love to see you again! You can stay there for as long as you want, but do make sure you come back. You are the princess of friendship, after all! Tell Coppermane I said hello, and I wish you safe travels!

Your proud teacher,

Princess Celestia

â€¦

"She wants you to go Sunset's world?" Fluttershy asked.

"Are you leaving now?" Pinkie Pie asked.

"I don't see why not, I mean, I've been wondering how Sunset's doing too," Twilight said, glancing over the portal behind her.

"You're just trying to get out of learning the duplication spell, aren't you?" Coppermane said jokingly.

Twilight chuckled, "I promise, that's what the letter said."

"How long will you be gone?" Rarity asked.

"I'm not sure. But it would be nice to visit there without any looming threats," Twilight said, recalling every other time she had visited Sunset's world. First time, Twilight's Crown. The second time, the Sirens. It would be nice to visit just for the sake of visiting, and without the fate of the _entire world_ at stake.

"Can we come with ya this time?" Applejack asked, knowing in the back of her head what the answer was probably going to be. Twilight looked away from her nervously, implying that her assumptions were correct. "Guess not, huh?"

"It's probably best if you stay here," Twilight said. Her friends understood, but looked down with disappointment.

"I get to go, right?" Spike asked.

"Actually Spike, can you stay here?" Twilight said.

Spike's eyes widened. "Awwâ€¦ why?"

"Just to make sure everything stays organized around here," Twilight said. "I might be gone for a while."

Spike sighed, obviously disappointed, but he obliged anyways. "Alrightâ€¦"

"I should write a message to Sunset Shimmer first, just to let them all know I'll be coming over," Twilight said. She went into the library to fetch the message book, and began to write in itâ€¦

â€¦

Dear Sunset Shimmer,

_I'm happy to inform you that I'll be coming over for another visit today! Princess Celestia is wondering how you're doing, and has asked me to come check up on you. Tell the girls that I'll be there soon. I can't wait to see you all again! And the best part: nothing is

threatening the world this time! We can all just have fun together, and maybe I can get more familiar with how your world works. I'm still a bit flaky on some things. I'll see you soon!_

Your best friend,

Princess Twilight Sparkle

â€¦

"Alright, now we just wait for her to respond!" Twilight said.

"Soâ€¦ does this mean I'll have the castle all to myself for a few days?" Coppermane asked.

"I guess so," Twilight said, "Promise you won't burn the place down okay?"

"You can count on me, Twilight. This is my home too, after all," Coppermane said with a smile.

"You've lived here long enough. I think I trust you to take care of it," Twilight said.

"And we'll all help too!" Rarity said, "We'll be waiting by the portal when you return, like always!"

"Y'all can let us know with the book, right?" Applejack said.

"I sure can! I'll try not to take too long. I know I have responsibilities," Twilight said. Speaking of the book, it started to buzz again.

"Wow, already? That was fast," Twilight said, opening the bookâ€¦

â€¦

Dear Princess Twilight,

You're coming over today?! This is such a great surprise! Princess Celestia is wondering how I'm doing, huh? Good to know that she still cares even after everything I've done. I'm writing this right next to the portal with all of the girls around me. They all said to say hi, that they miss you, and we can't wait to see you! It's almost time for the Fall Formal too, so maybe you can run for princess again? I will not be running this time around. It brings back too many memories. I'll leave that up to you, though. We're all ready for you, and we're so excited we can barely stand it! See you soon!

Your friend,

Sunset Shimmer

â€¦

"I guess you should be going thenâ€¦" Fluttershy said, looking sad.

"It's okay, Fluttershy," Twilight said, going up to the mare and hugging her, "I'll be back, I promise."

Everypony came up and gave Twilight a hug, wishing her luck on her mission. The seven ponies walked to the currently inactive porta. She threw the switch, and the portal was activated.

All of Twilight's friends called out goodbye to her, wishing her luck, saying that they'll miss her dearly. Twilight looked back at them, gave them a wink. And with a deep breath, Twilight ventured through the portalâ€¦

* * *

><p>Time: 12:25 PM, Friday, Canterlot High School (Wondercolt Statue)

Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, Rarity, Pinkie Pie, Applejack, and Sunset Shimmer all sat around the Wondercolt statue, eagerly awaiting their best friend's arrival.

"I can hardly wait!" Pinkie Pie said, jumping up and down with excitement.

"You sure she's coming?" Rainbow Dash asked, skeptical.

"She said she'd be coming soon," Sunset Shimmer said.

All of their skepticism immediately faded upon seeing waves form on the portal's surface, with a purple figure getting closer and closer. All of them gasped in anticipation, and soon, their best pony friend appeared through the portal.

"Woah!" Twilight said, trying to get her balance from having only two legs instead of four.

"Twilight!" the six girls cried out in excitement. They all swarmed Twilight in a big group hug.

"Oh, it's so wonderful to see you again!" Rarity said after the group released Twilight.

"We have so much catchin' up ta do!" Applejack said.

"We're so happy to have you back," Fluttershy said.

"Thanks for coming so quickly, Twilight," Sunset said.

"Oh, I was so excited to see you all again. And best of all, the world isn't in danger! Right?" Twilight asked, still skeptical.

"Not that we know of," Rainbow Dash said.

"Oh good," Twilight said, sighing in relief, "We can just hang out with no worries this time around. It's going to be so great!"

"Slumber party at my house tonight!" Pinkie Pie said with vigor, making the girls cheer in excitement.

"This is going to be wonderful! Now tell me, what's it like being a princess? What's it like living in a castle?" Rarity asked.

Suddenly the bell rang, much to the girls' disappointment.

"Shoot, lunch is over," Rainbow Dash said, letting out an annoyed sigh.

"Yeah, we gotta get ta class now," Applejack said, obviously wanting to stay where she was.

"Oh, okay, that's fine. I guess I can go the library or something," Twilight said.

"Don't worry, Twilight," Fluttershy said, "There's only two hours left in the day."

"How about we all meet at the library at the end of the day?" Sunset Shimmer suggested, to which all the girls agreed.

"We better get going, or we'll be late," Fluttershy said.

"Alright then. See you later, girls!" Twilight said.

"Bye Twilight!" said the girls before they all went their separate ways to their respective classes, except for Sunset.

"Twilight?" Sunset said.

"Yeah, Sunset?"

Sunset Shimmer walked up to her and gave her a big hug, "Thank you so much for visiting. It means a lot to all of us."

Twilight hugged her back, "The pleasure is mine, Sunset."

"Alright, I'll see you later then," Sunset said, releasing Twilight from the hug.

"See you later!" Twilight said. With that, Sunset Shimmer headed for class, leaving Twilight.

Twilight decided she would go to the library while she waited on her friends to finish their classes. She might as well make the most of her time alone. There was still a lot to learn about this strange world.

* * *

><p>Time: 2:20 PM, Friday, Canterlot High School (Outside Library)

The final bell rang, and Twilight Sparkle instantly stood up and headed for the library entrance. Or at leastâ€¦ she tried to. She wobbled a little bit, having to hold onto some of the shelves to keep her balance. Having only two legs still felt weird to her.

Twilight waited outside the library for her friends, and eventually, everyone rendezvoused.

"So, are we going back to Pinkie Pie's house then?" Twilight asked.

"Actually, I need to go back and clean up a bit. Give me about an hour?" Pinkie Pie said, still full of energy.

"Applejack, Sunset and I have some homework to do anyways," Rarity said. "We can get it out of the way so we don't have to worry about it later."

"Umâ€¦ I don't have anything to do," Fluttershy said, "Maybe I could show you around a little?"

"I'd love that! Thank you, Fluttershy!" Twilight said.

"Well, I guess we'll see you all later then," Sunset said.

"Yep! See you all later!" Pinkie Pie said, not before giving Twilight one more big hug, "I'm so happy you're here!"

And with that, all of the girls departed, except for Fluttershy and Twilight. The two smiled at each other, and began to walk towards the exit.

"So, how's everything in Equestria?" Fluttershy asked.

"Oh, life is great. Being a princess is a lot of work, but it's a huge honor," Twilight said, "Um, sorry to change the subject, but Sunset mentioned that the Fall Formal is coming up?"

"It sure is!" Fluttershy said, "And this year, she's not running for princess. She still feels awful for what she did last year."

"I can't blame her. How has she been lately?" Twilight asked.

"She's a lot better now. She's becoming a great friend, and the other students are starting to forgive her for her mistakes," Fluttershy said, "Sunset's been a great addition to the Rainbooms too. She's a fantastic guitarist."

"How are things going with the band?" Twilight asked.

"Oh, it's great! I love playing with my friends," Fluttershy said. "Actually, they're having another musical showcase happening a couple days before the Formal. We're performing, and I'm pretty sure Flash Sentry might be performing too."

"Flash Sentry's performing?" Twilight said quickly, "Umâ€¦ howâ€¦ how niceâ€¦" she said, blushing. Fluttershy giggled at her outburst.

"You should sing with us again!" Fluttershy said.

"You know, I think I will. It'd be nice to sing without having to worry about a counter-spell or anything," Twilight said, giggling. Fluttershy laughed too.

The two girls walked around for a little while, but Twilight stopped when noticed a boy getting stuff out of his locker. She couldn't figure out why, but he looked familiar. He wore a black graphic

hoodie, the graphic being a white music staff with a treble clef, along with sparkles in the background; black sweatpants, and white shoes. He had messy, reddish-brown hair, pale white skin, and seemed to have brown eyes, though it was hard to tell from a distance. His physique was rather slim, and at first glance appeared rather scrawny. He appeared to be emptying his locker, and he carried tons of textbooks and folders in his arms, with a black backpack on the floor next to him. He looked around nervously, and sifted through his locker quickly as if he was in a hurry to leave.

"Twilight? Is everything alright?" Fluttershy asked, curious as to why she stopped walking.

"Hey, Fluttershy, do you know who that is?" Twilight asked, gesturing towards the guy.

"Oh, him?" Fluttershy said, "I think he's a new student. I don't know his name, but I think he has calculus with me. He seems really shy."

"Hmm. Have you talked to him at all?" Twilight asked.

Fluttershy shook her head, and was about to respond, but stopped when she noticed something. Twilight looked behind her to see what Fluttershy was looking at, and saw two jocks turning the corner. One of them had blonde hair and the other had brown hair, and were bigger than the average guy. They appeared to be headed forâ€¦ the boy?

"Hey, look who it is!" the blonde-haired one said. The boy seemed to flinch upon hearing his voice, and froze in place.

"Hey, new guy. How's it going?" the brown-haired one said in a rather condescending tone.

"Umâ€¦ h-h-hi guysâ€¦" the boy said, sounding scared.

"Lots of books you got there. You going to study all weekend?" the brown-haired one said.

"W-W-Wellâ€¦ umâ€¦ Iâ€¦" he said stammering over his words.

"You're seriously wasting your weekend studying? Wow, what a loser!" the blonde one said, and then the two jocks began to laugh at the boy, who looked ashamed.

"I meanâ€¦ Iâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I juâ€”" he was interrupted by the blonde-haired jock slapping his books and folders out of his hand, spilling the folders' contents all over the floor. He sighed in frustration, and bent over to pick them up, only to have the brown-haired one "accidentally" bump into him, rather roughly, sending him toppling over onto the ground. He landed on his stomach with an audible smack on the ground.

"Ha! I barely bumped him! What a wimp!" the brown-haired one said, high-fiving his friend as they laughed at the guy.

The boy got up to his knees, but looked down at the ground, trembling and breathing shakily.

"Waitâ€¦ hold upâ€¦" the blonde-haired bully said, leaning down and examining the boy's face, "Are you about to cry?"

The boy refused to make eye contact with the jock, but his shaky breathing and sniffling indicated very clearly that he was on the verge of tears.

"Oh my gosh! He's crying!" the blonde-haired jock said, who started to laugh, along with his friend.

"Hey everyone! The new student's a nerdy, wimpy, crybaby! HA!" the brown-haired jock announced to the few students walking past them in the hall. The boy looked up briefly to see the jocks laughing hysterically at his expense. He looked down at the ground in shame as a tear escaped his eye.

"Have fun with your books, loser!" the blonde-haired jock said, delivering a swift kick to the boy's stomach. And with that, the jocks walked away, laughing hysterically, leaving the boy alone on the ground, holding his stomach and coughing, with his books and folder contents scattered across the floor. He got up and sat against the locker, holding his legs close to him. He looked around, and made eye contact with Twilight and Fluttershy. He immediately darted his head away, and began to cry shameful tears. He put his hood up, and buried his face in his knees, and could be heard crying his eyes out.

Twilight and Fluttershy were appalled. Did that really just happen? Fluttershy was on the verge of tears while Twilight was just in shock.

"Fluttershyâ€¦ did you see that?" asked Twilight.

"Mmmhmm," Fluttershy said, her hands over her mouth in disbelief.

"C'mon, let's go help him," Twilight said, gesturing Fluttershy to follow her. The two slowly approached the crying boy.

"Stupidâ€¦ worthlessâ€¦ patheticâ€¦" the boy mumbled to himself with obvious hurt in his words.

"Um, excuse me," Twilight said, trying to get his attention.

The boy lifted his head to see who spoke to him, but darted his tear-stained face away upon making eye contact, covering his face with his hood. Twilight bit her lip. Was he really _that_ scared?

"Umâ€¦ my friend and I just saw what happened. Are you okay?" Twilight asked.

The boy recoiled more, further hiding his face with his hood. After a second, he looked to see if the girl had left, and unfortunately, they hadn't. He darted his head away, looking completely ashamed, "D-Don't look at meâ€¦" he said in a pained voice.

"Huh?" Twilight said.

"Wh-Whatever you're gonna do to me, just do it. Get it over with.

Please," he said, practically pleading, still covering his face with his hood.

"What? Why would we want to do that?" Twilight said.

"Everyone here's been nothing but mean to me," the guy said, sounding completely broken, "Why should you two be any different?" He turned his head further from the girls and continued to cry.

Twilight looked back up at Fluttershy, who looked completely hurt at what she saw. She looked back down at the boy, and put her hand on his shoulder in an attempt to comfort him. The boy flinched when Twilight touched him, and looked at her with wide eyes, as if he was waiting for something to happen.

"I promise, we're not going to hurt you. We want to help you," Twilight said.

"H-Huh? H-Help me?" His voice was soft and filled with pain.

"We saw you get jumped by those bullies," Twilight said. "We wanted to make sure you were okay."

"Waitâ€¦ Soâ€¦ y-you're _not_ going to hurt me?" His eyes were completely bloodshot.

Twilight shook her head, "Why would we hurt you?"

The boy was silent for a second. He looked down trying to pull himself together. Trying to stop his tears. Eventually, he looked back up, "C-Cause I'mâ€¦ I'mâ€¦ I'm a loser."

"Oh, come on," Twilight said with a smirk, "Don't believe everything those bullies tell you." She stood up and offered her hand, "Let's get you up."

The boy seemed really reluctant, recoiling away in fear.

"I promise. I'm not going to hurt you. You can trust me," Twilight said in a reassuring tone. It took a few minutes, but eventually, the boy took her hand, and Twilight helped him stand up. He actually threw her off balance a bit when he was getting up. Apparently he was stronger than he looked. He stood up, but had his back hunched over slightly and his hood still up. He held himself protectively with his arms.

"There we go. Can you maybeâ€¦ put your hood down too?" Twilight coaxed. He was reluctant, but eventually agreed. He put his hood down, revealing his reddened face, indicating that he had been crying a lot.

"Alright. Are we okay now?" Twilight asked. He was silent for a second, but eventually he nodded.

"Great! Now, how about my friend and I help you gather your things."

He looked a bit shocked, as if nobody had ever offered him any help before, "Umâ€¦ okayâ€¦ th-thanksâ€¦" he said nervously, but offering a small smile.

Twilight and Fluttershy began to help the boy pick all his papers and books off the ground. They were a little mangled up, due to some students accidentally stepping on them, but it was nothing unsalvageable. There was just a lot of stuff, almost like he was trying to bring his entire locker home.

The boy walked around picking up his mangled papers, and couldn't help but be shocked. There were people actuallyâ€¦ _helping _him? Since his first day at Canterlot High everyone has either been apathetic or mean towards him. Nobody had ever been nice to him until now. And from girls who just saw him cry like a baby after getting jumped? This had to be a trick. Were these girls the jocks' girlfriends? Even if they were, he tried to accept the help. This is the nicest anyone's ever been to him since he's been here, and even if they were about to trick him, he could at least enjoy these few minutes of kindness.

Fluttershy bent down to pick one paper up, and almost simultaneously, the boy reached for the same sheet. Fluttershy froze in place as she looked up, and was met with the boy's tear-stained face. Fluttershy hadn't gotten a good look at the boy until now, and felt a slight tug at her heartstrings when she saw how red and bloodshot his eyes were. Studying him further, he actually wasn't that bad looking. His eyes were a lovely shade of chocolate brownâ€¦

The boy had only seen this girl out of the corner of his eyes when the other girl came up to help him, so this was the first close up encounter he's had. And wowâ€¦ She had the most beautiful face he's ever seen. The way her long, full pink hair wrapped around her, and the biggest, most gorgeous pair of teal eyesâ€¦

The two of them only stared for a few seconds, but it felt like an eternity to them. Both of them let go of the paper, and stood up, blushing majorly.

"Umâ€¦ s-sorryâ€¦ I-I'll get that oneâ€¦" the boy said in a quiet, shy voice.

What just happened?

"O-Okayâ€¦" Fluttershy said, blushing majorly.

Did that just happen?

Twilight saw their whole exchange and rose an eyebrow. This boyâ€¦ the coppery brown hairâ€¦ the pale skinâ€¦ the brown eyesâ€¦ his shynessâ€¦ and that little moment he just had with Fluttershy. Could this be Coppermane's counterpart?

Even if he wasn't, she couldn't deny that their little exchange was rather cute.

After a while, everything was cleaned up. Twilight and Fluttershy stood next to the boy as he put his things in his backpack. He slung it over his back, and he was thrown off balance a bit, but regained his stability. That backpack must weigh a hundred pounds with all of those books. He looked up at the girls.

"Umâ€¦ can Iâ€¦ can I ask you two something?" he asked timidly.

"Of course!" Twilight said, listening intently.

The guy held himself in his arms nervously. "Iâ€¦ I don't want to sound ungrateful or anything butâ€¦ wh-why are you girls being so nice to me?"

"What do you mean?" Twilight asked, looking at him quizzically.

The boy let out a sigh. "I meanâ€¦ you two just saw me crying like a baby. N-Normally people just laugh at me and call me names." He looked down with a depressed look on his face. "It's justâ€¦ why are you being so kind to me?"

"You looked like you needed it," Fluttershy said, offering him a warm smile, her face bright red.

The guy just found himself staring at this girl for a moment. Her face was so pretty, and she spoke in the sweetest voice he's ever heard.

He realized what he was doing and darted his gaze away, feeling his face heat up. "Heheâ€¦ wellâ€¦ umâ€¦ th-thanks. Iâ€¦ I really appreciate it," he said, giving the girls a soft smile. He saw that the pink-haired girl was blushing too. He looked back over at the other purple-haired girl, trying not to stare.

"It's no problem at all. We were happy to help," Twilight said, smiling. "Alright, now that we're all calmed down, why don't we start over? Hi, my name's Twilight Sparkle. It's nice to meet you," she said, holding her hand out.

The boy looked at her hand for a second, and looked up at Twilight and gave her a small smile, "Umâ€¦ I'mâ€¦ C-Coppermane. N-Nice to meet you too," he said, shaking her hand.

I knew it was you, Coppermane.

She looked behind her to see that Fluttershy was standing rather nervously, looking down at the ground and holding her hands. She gave Fluttershy a little nudge, gesturing for her to introduce herself.

Fluttershy walked up to the boy, feeling her face heat up, and hiding behind her hair. "I-I'm Fl-Fluttershy."

Coppermane reached out for her hand and shook it, shuddering at her touch, "C-Coppermane. N-Nice to meet you t-too."

Fluttershy felt her heart rate rise upon touching his hand. It felt cold, but she didn't mind.

"Iâ€¦ I think I've seen you beforeâ€¦" Coppermane said nervously, hoping he didn't sound like a creep.

"Oh? Y-You have?" Fluttershy said, looking up at him with a blush.

"D-Do we have a class together?" Coppermane asked, rubbing his neck.

Fluttershy blushed profusely, "Umâ€¦ I think we have calculus togetherâ€¦" she said timidly.

"Th-That's what I thought. I-I knew you looked familiarâ€¦" Coppermane said, rubbing his neck nervously.

Twilight couldn't help herself from becoming extremely giddy inside at watching the two of them act nervous around each other, but her thoughts were interrupted when she looked at the clock.

"Hey, Fluttershy, maybe we should start heading over to Pinkie Pie's now?" Twilight said, giving her friend a nudge.

"Huh?" Fluttershy said, looking over at the clock, "Oh my, is it that time already? Yeah, we probably should."

"Coppermane I'm sorry, but we need to be going," Twilight said, looking apologetic.

"Oh, okay," Coppermane said, looking a little down, "Umâ€¦ th-thanks again."

"Anytime, Coppermane!" Twilight said, "And remember, don't let those bullies get to your head, okay?"

"Iâ€¦ I'll tryâ€¦" he said, "Iâ€¦ I'll see you later thenâ€¦"

"See you later!" Twilight said. With that, Twilight and Fluttershy began to walk towards the exit, but Fluttershy decided to sneak one more glance at Coppermane. Unfortunately, he had the same idea, and the two locked eyes again. She felt her heart rate rising, and felt her face heat up, but instead of darting her head away, she gave him a little wave and a smile. Her heart fluttered when he smiled and waved back.

"Fluttershy! You coming?" Twilight called out. Fluttershy turned around, glanced one more time at Coppermane, and ran to catch up with Twilight.

Coppermane just stood there to collect his thoughts on what had just happened. Those girlsâ€¦ those girls are the first students in the _entire school_ to offer him kindness instead of apathy or cruelty since he started here. As much as he wanted to believe that it was a random act of kindness, years of being bullied in school made him skeptical. The only time anyone ever showed him "kindness" in the past was to get him to let them copy off his answers, especially in math. He knew it was dishonest, but it meant people were actually interacting with him without trying to hurt him, so he would always reluctantly oblige. All other times, people would always pick on him for being a nerd, being a wimp, or just because they saw him as an easy target. As a result, he had always closed himself off, and has never had any friends. He spent so much of his time studying mostly because he had nothing better to do. The only other thing he did was play video games, but he didn't even fit into that community since he wasn't much of a first-person shooter fan. He had always been an outcast, and as a result, has been quite lonely his entire life. Being closed off and insecure, being bullied his entire life, and mostly just by nature, he couldn't help himself from being skeptical.

He didn't want to seem unappreciative for Twilight and Fluttershy's help, but at the same time, he couldn't help but feel pessimistic. Thoughâ€¦ they didn't do anything else after they helped him. They just leftâ€¦ without being mean to him in any way, shape, or formâ€¦

Putting the negative thoughts aside, Coppermane thought about that little moment he had with Fluttershy. Wow, if that girl wasn't drop-dead gorgeous. Those captivating teal eyes, her long, flowing pink hair, and that small white butterfly in her hair that adorned her beautiful face. And did he just catch her sneaking a glance at him? And she gave him a smile and a wave. She stood in such a cute manner. Holding her hands behind her back, her head slightly recoiled behind her flowing hair, her knees pressed together, the way she played with her hair, brushing strands out of her gorgeous eyes before bringing her hand behind her again, and she gave him that cute, shy smile again. It had to be the most adorable thing Coppermane has ever seen. To him, there wasn't a prettier sight in the world.

_Coppermaneâ€¦ don't read into this. C'mon, do you think a girl _that_ beautiful could ever have a crush on someone like _you_? Especially after witnessing you crying like the pathetic loser you are? Besides, a girl that gorgeous probably has a boyfriend already, and chances are, it's one of those jocks. Get your head together, dude._

Coppermane's conscience never failed to be his own worst bully. He knew it was true, though. There's no way a girl that beautiful isn't in a relationship already.

In any case, he couldn't deny his appreciation for their kindness today, even if it really was just a faÃ§ade.

Butâ€¦ _Fluttershy_â€¦

A guy could dream, right?

Coppermane double-checked his backpack, and with that, began his trek home. The whole way, his mind was dominated with thoughts of a certain pink-haired girlâ€¦

* * *

><p>Thanks for any feedback! I'll do my best to do daily revisions, so keep your eyes peeled! All reviews are _**greatly appreciated**_**, so don't forget to leave one letting me know what you think. Maybe even if you've reviewed the last story, let me know on this chapter and future chapters what you thought? If they're better? Worse? I'd _love _to know :D**

Peace out.

To see a picture of my OC, there's a link on my profile.

2. Insomnia

**Now, if you go back and read the first five chapters of the

original version, you'll notice that they match the first five chapters here. That's because it only occurred to me at Ch.6 to make a stand-alone story for this. The original first-five chapters are unfortunately gone, but Ch.6-19 will remain original.**

I don't really have much else to say, so let's get this show on the road, shall we? ****I don't own any of the MLP FiM characters, but I DO own Coppermane. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Loveliest of Trees<p>

Ch.2: Insomnia

Time: 3:20 PM, Friday, Bound for Pinkie Pie's House

Twilight couldn't stop thinking about what she and Fluttershy just witnessed with Coppermane. It was one thing to hear from your best friend that they were been bullied in the past; it was another thing to see it happen for yourself. Twilight cursed herself inside for just standing there and not taking action sooner. She was happy that she could help him out afterwards, though.

Twilight was also extremely giddy about the moment Fluttershy had with Coppermane. Even afterwards, she noticed the two of them were blushing profusely whenever they talked to each other. When they started to leave, she noticed that Fluttershy was falling behind since she decided to wave goodbye to Coppermane.

Did they already have crushes on each other?

As the two girls walked to Pinkie Pie's house, Twilight noticed that Fluttershy looked ratherâ€¦ happy. She had a big smile on her blushing face. She was also twirling her hair and looking down at the ground as she walked, as if she was thinking about something.

"You alright over there, Fluttershy?" Twilight asked.

"Huh?" Fluttershy asked, as if she was in a trance. "Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ yeahâ€¦ I'm fine. Why?"

"Oh it's nothing. It just looks like you have something on your mind," Twilight said.

"I'm fine, Twilight. Don't worry," Fluttershy said with a timid smile.

"Alright. Well, if there's anything you want to talk about, I'm always here," Twilight said.

"Thanks, Twilight," Fluttershy said, returning her attention to the ground as her smile returned.

She so has a crush on him.

* * *

><p>Time: 6:30 PM, Friday, Pinkie Pie's House

"Waitâ€¦ you're kiddingâ€¦" Sunset asked.

"I've never heard of anything like that happening before at CHS," Rarity said.

"It happened. Fluttershy and I saw the whole thing," Twilight said.

Everyone was gathered in Pinkie Pie's kitchen eating pizza, and Twilight had just finished telling the girls about what she and Fluttershy witnessed earlier today. She told them all about how the bullies had come out of nowhere, slapped his books out of his hands, and pushed him onto the ground, reducing him to tears. She also mentioned how the bullies had the audacity to announce to the passing students that he's a "nerdy, wimpy crybaby".

"That's just uncool," Rainbow Dash said.

"Why would anyone do that?" Applejack asked.

"I don't know," Twilight said, "He was also mumbling things to himself like stupid, worthless, and pathetic. Seems like he's been through a lot."

"Why doesn't he just go to Principal Celestia about it? He shouldn't have to deal with that," Sunset said.

"He's probably afraid," Twilight said, "And I don't think he wants to be a tattle-tale either."

"Do you know his name?" Rarity asked.

"Oh, his name's Coppermane," Fluttershy said, "He's the new student."

"Waitâ€¦" Rarity said, "I think I might know who you're talking about. Does he wear a black hoodie, black pants, and have messy reddish-brown hair?"

"Um, yeah, that's himâ€¦" Fluttershy said. She looked down as her thoughts began to drift.

"Oh, yeah!" Sunset said, "The new student in our calculus class right?"

"Oh, right!" Applejack chimed in, "Ah knew he sounded familiar."

"I know who you're talking about! Sunset and I showed him around school the day before he started," Pinkie Pie chimed in, "Remember, Sunset?"

Sunset nodded, "Sure do!"

"Oh, now I know who you're talking about," Rainbow Dash said, "I saw you two walking him around."

"Mmmhmm!" Sunset said, "He was pretty shy, but he was really nice."

"Yeahâ€¦ he wasâ€¦" Fluttershy mumbled to herself.

"Hmm? Did you say something, Fluttershy?" Sunset asked.

Fluttershy's face went red, "Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ Iâ€¦ justâ€¦ heâ€¦ wellâ€¦ umâ€¦" she said, quieting down towards the end, and feeling her face heat up.

"Fluttershy, are you alright, darling? Is there something on your mind?" Rarity asked. Fluttershy said nothing, but looked away and twirled her hair, smiling.

What was up with Fluttershy? She's smiling, blushing, she's not making eye contact with them, and she's twirling her hair, whilst they're talking about the new student. But that would meanâ€¦

Almost simultaneously, everyone drew the same conclusion, and got huge grins on their faces.

"Fluttershy, darling," Rarity asked with a teasing tone, "What do _you_ think of the new student?"

Fluttershy stopped twirling her hair and looked up to see all her friends looking at her with big smiles and wide eyes.

"Umâ€¦ what?" Fluttershy asked, afraid of what they were asking her.

"We want to know what _you_ think of the new student," Sunset said, putting her hand on her shoulder.

Fluttershy could feel her face getting hotter. "Umâ€¦ wh-why?"

"You've been unusually quiet over there, even for you," Rainbow Dash said, "We just want to know what _you _think of the new guy."

Fluttershy's heart rate began to rise. She looked at all her friends' faces, all having wide eyes and smiles as if they were expecting a certain answer. Oh no, did they figure it out? Had Fluttershy been subconsciously dropping hints this entire time?

Her friends were still waiting for an answer, and Fluttershy could see that there was no getting out of this. As much as she didn't want to tell them, they were her best friends, and they were just asking a simple question.

"Umâ€¦ wellâ€¦ he seemsâ€¦ really niceâ€¦ andâ€¦" Fluttershy began to say, trailing off.

"Yeees?" Sunset said.

Fluttershy began twirling her hair, "Andâ€¦ itâ€¦ it was kind ofâ€¦ really cute when he was acting shyâ€¦"

All of her friends' eyes widened, and smiles grew on their faces.

"Fluttershy has a crush!" Pinkie Pie said, jumping up and down and squealing in excitement.

All of the girls began giggling, and Fluttershy's face went bright red, "Ohâ€¦ wellâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I meanâ€¦ what makes you think thatâ€¦?"

"Fluttershy," Rarity said, "Do you know you've been twirling your hair this entire time?"

Fluttershy paused for a second before realizing that she had indeed been messing with her hair, and didn't even know it. She immediately stopped as her heartbeat skyrocketed.

"Oh, you so have a crush on him!" Sunset said with a big smile on her face.

Twilight spoke up, "Oh, I forgot to tell you girls! When we were helping Coppermane pick his stuff up todayâ€¦ the two of them had a little moment," she said teasingly.

Twilight then told them about the moment Coppermane and Fluttershy had together. She mentioned how Coppermane seemed to be nervous too, blushing, rubbing his neck, and smiling a lot. She also told them about how Fluttershy paused on their way out to give him a wave. As Twilight told the story, Fluttershy's face was bright red as she played with her hair again.

"Awwâ€¦" Sunset said, "That's so cute!"

"Did he wave back?" Rainbow Dash asked.

Fluttershy looked away and smiled, "Yeahâ€¦ he didâ€¦" she said, giggling to herself.

"Sounds like he might be crushin' on you too, sugar," Applejack said, taking a bite of pizza.

Fluttershy blushed, "Ohâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I don't know about thatâ€¦"

"Oh don't be like that, Fluttershy," Rarity chimed in, "From what Twilight said, all the signs are there."

"R-Really?" Fluttershy asked, looking up at her friends.

"Rarity's right, Fluttershy," Sunset chimed in, "Acting nervous, blushing, smiling,_ and_ sneaking glances at you? Those are tell-tale signs of a crush."

"Waitâ€¦ he wasâ€¦ l-looking at me?" Fluttershy asked.

Twilight giggled, "Indeed he was."

Fluttershy giggled to herself, and began playing with her hair again. He wasâ€¦ sneaking glances at her? Could he actually have a crush on her?

Fluttershy's thoughts were interrupted by her friends giggling in excitement.

"Umâ€¦ canâ€¦ can we talk about something else? I think I need to sleep on thisâ€¦" Fluttershy asked, still blushing.

Rarity nodded, "Sorry, darling. We're just so excited for you!" Everyone else nodded in agreement.

"Oh, it's fine," Fluttershy said, blushing, "Th-Thanksâ€¦"

"No problem, sugarcube," Applejack said.

Twilight couldn't help but smile about what had happened today. Not the bullying part, but the exchange between Coppermane and Fluttershy. It hasn't even been one day yet, and Fluttershy already had a crush on him! And from what Twilight observed, Coppermane already had a crush on Fluttershy. Twilight knew that her Equestria friends would miss her, but she might have to stay for a while, or at least until the formal was over (she couldn't stay forever). Three weeks from today was the musical showcase, and the day after that was the Fall Formal. She wanted to see if Coppermane and Fluttershy would end up together in this world as well, and from what she saw today, they were headed in the right direction. Yeahâ€¦ Twilight could see her time in this world getting very interestingâ€¦

* * *

><p>Time: 1:30 AM, Saturday, Pinkie Pie's House

The girls stayed up for as long as they could before all of them started to black out one-by-one. All were sleeping soundly, except for one.

Fluttershy couldn't go to sleep. Her mind was filled with thoughts ofâ€¦ him. She sat up and leaned against the bed. She stared out the open window at the full moon, the only thing illuminating the room, and tried to collect her thoughts.

Fluttershy could admit to herself that she had a crush on Coppermane. There was just something about him that wasâ€¦ different. His shyness was really cute, and he seemed like a really sweet guy. And when Fluttershy got a closer look, she discovered that he actually wasn't that bad looking.

Fluttershy's thoughts shifted to how Coppermane was acting before they had their little moment together. He was so scared. Fluttershy's never seen anyone so frightened of other people before. He seemed so reluctant to accept their help, almost as if he was _expecting_ them to betray him. Even before they walked up to him, he mumbled words like stupid, pathetic, and worthless. It's like he was mentally cutting himself. All those tearsâ€¦ all that fearâ€¦ all the self-hateâ€¦ it broke Fluttershy's heart to think about. Even after he calmed down, he was still berating himself. Why would anyone do that to themselves? Fluttershy just didn't understand how one could bully themselves like that.

But, could Coppermane actually like her back? Fluttershy giggled at the thought of Coppermane sneaking glances at her. Was that really a tell tale sign of a crush? Could he really have a crush on her?

Fluttershy let her mind wander, imagining what it would be like to have a boyfriend. She's always seen couples walking around school together, holding hands, flirting with each other, and just being

happy. The thought of having a guy to love made her smile, and the thought of a guy loving her made her smile even more. She always imagined what it would feel like to have a guy play with her hair, or hold her from behind, or even just holding her hand. She twirled her hair at the thought.

It was something Fluttershy always fantasized about, but never thought it would actually happen for her. Fluttershy knew that she needed to be realistic. She and Coppermane barely knew each other, and maybe he's just naturally nervous like that around other people.

Stillâ€¦ maybe if she got to know him moreâ€¦

Fluttershy still was still wide awake. She grabbed her phone and popped in her headphones. She sat there against the bed as she listened to her music.

I wonder if he's thinking about meâ€¦?

* * *

><p>Time: 1:30 AM, Saturday, Coppermane's House

Coppermane couldn't fall asleep, no matter how hard he tried. He sat up in his bed, looking out the window at the full moon, and tried to collect his thoughts.

All he could think about was Fluttershy. Wow, she was even more beautiful than the full moon in the starry sky. Her flowing pink hair, those big teal eyes, and a smile that could illuminate the darkest night. Coppermane didn't know how it was possible for a girl to be _that_ gorgeous.

Coppermane knew he had calculus with Fluttershy, and has always seen her surrounded by her friends. He always thought she was really pretty, but that was before he was able to get a closer look.

He couldn't help but think about how shy she acted around him. How she was hiding behind her hair, how she was smiling, and how red her face was. Coppermane smiled at the thought of Fluttershy blushing.

Coppermane originally didn't read much into this. He assumed she was just naturally shy. But that was before he and Fluttershy locked eyes again, and she smiled and waved at him. She even lingered for a little bit until Twilight called out to her.

Coppermane smiled at the memory of how Fluttershy looked when she waved at him. The way she hid behind her hair, the way she stood with her knees bent inward, and the way she smiled; it was just too adorable.

Coppermane let his mind drift, imagining what it would be like to have a girlfriend. He would love to have a girl all to himself, and be able to love her. Hold her hand, hold her in his arms, kiss her cheek, give her random gifts, tell her every day how beautiful she is; the list goes on. The thought of having a special someone and treating her like a princess always brought a smile to his face.

Coppermane didn't want to admit it to himself, but he did have to be realistic. What did he really have to offer any girl? Even if Fluttershy, by some miracle, had a crush on him, he'd just end up disappointing her with how dull he is.

Besides, how could a girl have a crush on someone after seeing him get jumped, and cry like a baby after the fact? She probably thought he was pathetic after seeing him like that. Appropriate, since he is pathetic.

Coppermane was still wide awake, so he grabbed his phone and popped in his headphones. He sat up against his bed, listening to his music as he gazed into the astral night sky.

I wonder if she's thinking about meâ€¦?

* * *

><p>All reviews are **_greatly _****appreciated, so don't forget to leave one letting me know what you think.**

Peace out.

To see a picture of my OC, there's a link on my profile.

3. Crushes

Just fyi, the original version will remain on here because I love reading all your reviews. It's so flattering!

I don't own any of the MLP FiM characters, but I DO own Coppermane. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Time: 6:30 AM, Monday, Coppermane's House, Days Until Formal: 19

Coppermane woke up, and immediately got out of bed. Normally, it would take forever for him to get out of bed, but this time he actually was kind of excited for the day, and wanted to make sure he looked decent.

Coppermane usually never bothered putting effort into his appearance, mostly because he figured his loser-ness would still shine through no matter how hard he tried. But today was different. He had somebody to impress, or more accurately a girl to impress. A girl by the name of Fluttershy.

Ever since Coppermane met Fluttershy, he couldn't get her out of his head. No matter what he did, the image of her beautiful face popped in his head. Unfortunately, the only thing he thought about more than Fluttershy herself was his first encounter with her. He couldn't stop cursing himself about how weak and pathetic he acted around her. She saw him get jumped by bullies, and cry his eyes out afterwards. How embarrassing.

He needed to make a better second impression on her. There was

something different about Fluttershy, he could sense it. He wanted to get to know her more, but after the way he acted on Friday, she'd probably be embarrassed to be seen with him. If he wanted to have any chance of talking to her, he needed to make it look like he wasn't a total basket-case.

For once, Coppermane decided to put some effort into his appearance. It would definitely feel weird at first, but it _might_ make Fluttershy notice him. It couldn't hurt right? And everything would be worth it if he could impress Fluttershy. He took a shower, and immediately got to work. First, he decided to ditch the hoodie, and then decided to put on some jeans. Then he put on a simple dark purple shirt with a white music staff and a treble clef on it. Most of his shirts had that graphic on it. Finally, he put some product in his hair and parted it to his right, making his reddish-brown hair look windswept.

Before heading out, he took one more look in the mirror. He sighed at what he saw.

Wellâ€¦ at least you triedâ€¦

Maybe it would be enough?

And with that, Coppermane got his backpack and headed off to school.

* * *

><p>Time: 12:05 PM, Monday, CHS (Lunchroom)

Wowâ€¦ this feels so weirdâ€¦

Coppermane wasn't used to walking around in public without his hoodie on. He would feel fine if he were wearing a long-sleeve shirt, but he just had his t-shirt on. He felt a little naked without sleeves. Wearing jeans didn't help either. Coppermane never liked jeans because it made him feel encumbered, and he didn't like the seams rubbing on his legs. Either way, he just hoped he'd look decent enough for Fluttershy.

Now it was lunchtime, and if Coppermane didn't feel insecure about his appearance before, he sure did now. So many students everywhere, and Coppermane could just feel all their eyes on him. It was an irrational fear, but that's just how his brain is wired.

He got his food, and luckily found an empty table in the corner of the room. He sat down, and started to dig in. But as he took a drink, he saw something that made his heart skip a beat, and nearly choke on his water.

There, sitting two tables down from him, was Fluttershy, along with all her friends.

Coppermane could only make out her profile, but even then he found himself captivated. Wowâ€¦ she was even more beautiful in the flesh than in his memories.

_Should I go talk to her? Noâ€¦ she's with her friends. That's just asking to be embarrassed. Butâ€¦ I really want to talk to her. She's

just soâ€¦ cuteâ€¦_

Out of his peripheral vision, he spotted someone giggling at him. It was one of her friends! Coppermane suddenly realized her been staring this whole time!

Crap!

Coppermane quickly averted his eyes, looking down at his food. Caught red-handed, and by one of Fluttershy's friends. Of courseâ€¦

Coppermane did his best to act nonchalant, but he could feel his face heating up like crazy. His heart pounded from the embarrassment. Fluttershy's friend was probably informing her right now about the creepy bastard checking her out. Greatâ€¦

* * *

><p>As Twilight told the group about her life in Equestria, Applejack suddenly giggled out of nowhere, making everyone else raise an eyebrow.<p>

"Something funny, Applejack?" Twilight asked quizzically.

Applejack giggled again. "Oh, nothin'. Although, Ah did just catch Fluttershy's crush checkin' her out," she said, gesturing over to the table to Fluttershy's left. Fluttershy glanced over there, and her heart skipped a beat when she saw Coppermane sitting at a table, all by himself.

Fluttershy turned her head away, blushing and hiding her face in her hair. "Ohâ€¦ wellâ€¦ he's just staring at his foodâ€¦"

"He wasn't a second ago," Applejack said with a smirk.

"I haven't seen him without a hoodie on before," Sunset said, "Huh, he's actually not that bad looking."

"Yes, he cleans up rather nicely," Rarity said.

Fluttershy couldn't help herself. She had to look again. She turned her head to Coppermane, keeping her face concealed behind her hair. He _did_ look good without his hoodie. The sunlight shined on his hair, igniting it with beautiful coppery highlights, unlike anything she's ever seen before.

Suddenly, he looked up, and the two locked eyes. Fluttershy gasped, and immediately darted her gaze away. She hid behind her hair, and felt her face heat up.

"Fluttershy, were you just staring at him?" Rainbow Dash asked with a smirk.

"Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ wellâ€¦" Fluttershy stammered. She heard her friends giggling, making her blush even more.

"You should go over there and talk to him!" Sunset said.

Fluttershy whimpered, "Ohâ€¦ I don't want to bother him. Iâ€¦ I don't

even know if he likes meâ€¦"

"Well, you won't know unless you go and talk to him," Rarity said.

"I know, butâ€¦ what if he doesn't?" Fluttershy asked, playing with her hair.

"Fluttershy, Ah seriously think he might be crushin on ya," Applejack said. "Ah mean, we _did_ just catch him starin' at ya, right?"

Fluttershy blushed. "Iâ€¦ I guessâ€¦"

Sunset suddenly got up out of her seat, and looked Fluttershy in the eye. "Come with me."

Fluttershy looked at Sunset quizzically. "Umâ€¦ wh-why?"

"We're gonna go talk to Coppermane," Sunset said.

Fluttershy's felt her heart drop. "Wh-Wh-What?"

"You heard me," Sunset said with a smirk.

"Umâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I don't knowâ€¦ " Fluttershy stammered.

"Fluttershy, don't you want to know if he likes you or not?" Sunset asked.

"Well, yesâ€¦ butâ€¦ what ifâ€¦ what if I say something weirdâ€¦ orâ€¦"

"Fluttershy," Sunset said, "Don't worry. I'm going with you. I'll help you out. I know you're scared, but the only way you're going to find out if he likes you or not is if you take a chance."

"Coppermane was super nice when we were showing him around CHS," Pinkie said. "Shy, but nice!"

"You can do it, Fluttershy!" Rainbow Dash said.

Fluttershy bit her lip and played with her hair. She knew they were right. The only way to find out is if she goes and talks to him.

With a whimper, she looked up at Sunset. "Okayâ€¦" she said sheepishly.

Sunset smiled and grabbed Fluttershy's hand, "Yay!"

"Oh, Fluttershy!" Rarity said, "Maybe try to get his number?" she said with a smirk.

"We'll see, Rarity. One thing at a time," Sunset said. And with that, Sunset took Fluttershy over to Coppermane. Fluttershy's heart felt like it was on fire as they got closer.

* * *

><p>Coppermane was busy scolding himself for getting caught again. He tried to look at her again, and ended up getting caught red-handed again. This time, but Fluttershy herself. If he wasn't a creepy bastard before, he sure was now.<p>

Coppermane's scolding was interrupted when he saw something in his peripheral vision. It appeared to be a black leather jacket and orange skirt. He looked up to see a familiar girl gazing back at him.

"Hi, Coppermane," Sunset said, "I don't know if you remember me at allâ€¦"

"Oh, hi. Yeah, you showed me around school before my first day. Sunset Shimmer right?" Coppermane asked.

Sunset nodded, "Yep! And we have calculus together too if I remember correctly."

Coppermane nodded, and was about to say something else until he saw something behing Sunset that made his heart stop.

Sunset knew exactly what, or rather who, Coppermane was looking at. She looked behind her to see Fluttershy hiding behind her hair with her knees bent inward as she held herself.

"Oh, I'm sorry, have you met my friend yet?" Sunset asked. She gave Fluttershy a nudge, evoking a nervous whimper from her. "This is Fluttershy."

Coppermane felt a lump in his throat. Fluttershy was here. She was _right here_ in front of him.

"Umâ€¦ w-we've met. H-Hi, Fluttershy," Coppermane said. He could feel his heartbeat getting faster.

Fluttershy felt her face heat up. "Umâ€¦ hi, Coppermane."

Sunset giggled at their exchange. Coppermane liked Fluttershy, it was too obvious.

"We wanted to talk to you about your time here so far. Can we sit?" Sunset asked.

"Waitâ€¦ you actuallyâ€¦ _want_ to sit with me?" Coppermane asked.

"Of course!" Sunset said. "Is there a problem?"

"Oh no no no, I justâ€¦ I'm not used to people sitting with me is allâ€¦ especially two girls," Coppermane said timidly, "Sorryâ€¦ " he said, gesturing for them to sit.

Sunset and Fluttershy sat opposite of Coppermane, who had butterflies beyond belief. Fluttershy was_right there_.

"So, have you been enjoying CHS so far, Coppermane?" Sunset asked.

Coppermane looked at Sunset, fighting with every fiber of his being to not gawk at Fluttershy. "It's been going alright so far. It's definitely better than my old school."

"Glad to hear that! Have you made any friends yet?" Sunset asked.

"Umâ€¦ wellâ€¦" Coppermane started to say, "I've met you, Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy, and I met another girl named Twilight Sparkleâ€¦ andâ€¦ wellâ€¦ there'sâ€¦" he said, trying to come up with other names, but his mind went blank. He sighed in defeat, "Okayâ€¦ I guess I haven't been putting in much effort."

"Aww, why not?" Sunset asked.

"Wellâ€¦ umâ€¦" Coppermane tried to say before Principal Celestia entered the cafeteria and walked up to Sunset.

"Excuse me, Sunset Shimmer?" Principal Celestia said behind Sunset.

"Oh, hi Principal Celestia," Sunset said.

"I'm sorry to interrupt you, but do you mind coming with me for a moment? You're not in any trouble, I just want to speak with you about something," Principal Celestia asked.

Almost simultaneously, Coppermane and Fluttershy's hearts dropped. Were they about to be leftâ€¦ _alone_?

Sunset looked back at Fluttershy. She looked terrified. As much as Sunset didn't want to leave her friend out to dry like this, she didn't really have a choice. She couldn't say no to Principal Celestia herself. On the other hand, this would give Fluttershy a chance to talk to her crush on her own. She gestured for Fluttershy to lean her ear towards her.

"You can do this," Sunset whispered. "Just continue this conversation. You can do this."

Fluttershy's heart felt like it was on fire. She was about to left aloneâ€¦ with _Coppermane_.

Sunset looked up at the principal, "Of course, Principal Celestia."

"Thank you, Sunset," Principal Celestia said. Sunset stood up to follow Principal Celestia to her office.

As the two of them walked off, Sunset turned around and winked at Fluttershy, making her blush. And with that, Sunset and Principal Celestia walked away to her office, leaving Fluttershy and Coppermane aloneâ€¦ together.

Coppermane began to nervously fidget with his feet and hands. He could hear his heartbeat ring in his ear, and his heart felt like it was on fire.

_I'm alone with Fluttershyâ€¦ Fluttershy is right there. What do I say? I can't just sit here silently like an idiot. This is my chance!

Butâ€¦ what the hell do I say?_

Coppermane felt a huge lump in his throat, preventing him from speaking. He couldn't help it. She was just soâ€¦ gorgeous. The way she played with her hair as it draped over her face was just so adorable. He tried to find words to say, but his mind kept drawing a blank.

Fluttershy's heart was pounding. She tried hiding behind her hair, but it was no use. Her face was on fire.

Oh my goshâ€¦ I'm alone with Coppermane! I should say something. I need to talk to him. This is my chance! Butâ€¦ what do I say?

Sunset's words echoed in Fluttershy's head.

You can do this. Just continue this conversation. You can do this.

Fighting the lump in her throat, Fluttershy took a deep breath. "S-Soâ€¦ umâ€¦ y-you haven't m-made any other friends yet?"

"Huh?" Coppermane said dumbly. "Ohâ€¦ wellâ€¦ I meanâ€¦ it's not like I haven't made _any_ friends. I-I've met _you_, right?" he said, rubbing his neck.

Fluttershy blushed, "Yeahâ€¦ yeah you haveâ€¦"

"But I get what you're saying. I haven't really made any _other_ friends yet," Coppermane said.

"Why not?" Fluttershy asked.

"Umâ€¦ wellâ€¦ it-it's a long storyâ€¦ " Coppermane said. "I don't want to bore you."

"Aww, don't say that," Fluttershy said. "You can tell me."

"Umâ€¦ I don't knowâ€¦ itâ€¦ it's kind of stupidâ€¦" Coppermane said, playing with his hands.

"Don't be like that. I don't mind at all," Fluttershy said sweetly. "You can tell me."

Was Coppermane hearing things? Did she _want_ to hear his sob-story? He studied her eyes. Her beautiful teal eyes. He didn't know why, but he felt ratherâ€¦ secure with Fluttershy. Her face conveyed something genuine, and Coppermane felt like he could trust it, and he could trust _her_.

"You really want to know?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy nodded. "I do."

"Wellâ€¦ okayâ€¦ " Coppermane said. Fluttershy's face immediately lit up, and she was all ears. Coppermane then proceeded to tell Fluttershy all about his life at his old school. He told her about how he got bullied basically every single day with jocks ramming into him constantly, knocking his books out of his hands, beating him up,

and belittling him afterwards.

"I guess I was an easy target or something, I don't know," Coppermane said.

"Iâ€¦ I thought I would be able to escape it when I movedâ€¦ butâ€¦ wellâ€¦ I guess you saw what happened last Fridayâ€¦ " Coppermane said, looking away with shame.

Fluttershy could feel her eyes welling up. It was heart-breaking to hear how much he's had to go through. He's been bullied for _that_ long?

"You poor thingâ€¦" Fluttershy said, placing her hand on Coppermane's.

Coppermane felt something on his hand. Something delicate and soft. He looked down to see Fluttershy's handâ€¦ on top of his.

Fluttershy followed Coppermane's eyes down, and saw where her hand was. She immediately pulled back, and hid behind her hair.

"Umâ€¦ s-sorryâ€¦ " she said, playing with her hands.

Coppermane's face was just as red as hers, "Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ y-you're fineâ€¦"

Did she justâ€¦ flirt with me?

Thankfully, Sunset returned before the situation got too awkward.

"Hey, sorry about that," Sunset said, sitting down with Coppermane and Fluttershy.

"What did the principal talk to you about?" Fluttershy asked, trying to distract herself from her embarrassment.

"She just asked me if I was going to run for Princess of the Fall Formal this year, and I told her no," Sunset said.

Suddenly, the bell rang, signaling the end of the lunch period.

"Ohâ€¦ I guess lunch is overâ€¦" Sunset said.

Fluttershy got up out of her seat, slinging her backpack behind her. She looked back at Coppermane, with a face as red as an apple. "Umâ€¦ thanks for talking to me, Coppermane."

Coppermane smiled. Her voice was so sweet. "N-No problem. A-Anytime."

"G-Goodbye," Fluttershy said.

"Yeahâ€¦ B-Byeâ€¦ " Coppermane said. Fluttershy smiled, and began to walk out. Before she left the cafeteria, she looked back at Coppermane one more time, giving him another smile and a wave.

Sunset was about to leave to, but heard Coppermane speak up behind her.

"Umâ€¦ Sunset?" Coppermane said.

"Hmm?" Sunset said.

"Umâ€¦ don't tell her I asked thisâ€¦ butâ€¦" he began rubbing his neck, "doesâ€¦ does Fluttershyâ€¦ umâ€¦"

"Yees?" Sunset asked.

"Umâ€¦ does Fluttershyâ€¦ h-have a boyfriend?" Coppermane asked.

Sunset beamed. He _did_ have a crush on her! She tried to contain her excitement, giving him a smirk. "Noâ€¦ no she doesn't."

"She doesn't?!" Coppermane blurted out suddenly. He immediately recoiled when he realized how loud he was, "Umâ€¦ s-sorryâ€¦"

Sunset giggled, "No worries. Why do you want to know?" she asked teasingly.

"Umâ€¦ n-no reasonâ€¦ j-just curiousâ€¦" he said, rubbing his neck.

Sunset chuckled at his nervousness, "Okay, whatever you say," she said with a smile, "See you in calculus!"

"Yeahâ€¦ s-see youâ€¦" Coppermane said sheepishly.

Sunset then exited the cafeteria, leaving Coppermane alone to ponder her thoughts.

Did he really just open up to Fluttershy?

Coppermane had the biggest smile on his face. His heart was still beating hard from talking to Fluttershy. He talked to a beautiful girl, and he didn't get ridiculed. Instead, she was justâ€¦ nice. Nice, sweet, and caring. Was he just having a good dream?

Either way, he needed to get to class. He slung his backpack over his back, and proceeded to his next class, with Fluttershy's image dominating his mind.

* * *

><p>Time: 1:20 PM, Monday, CHS (Calculus)

Today was a study period in calculus, and groups were allowed. Rarity, Applejack, Sunset Shimmer, and Rarity pushed their desks together, and pulled out various homework sheets and study guides out.

"Sorry for abandoning you during lunch like that, Fluttershy," Sunset said.

"Oh, it's fine. It was the principal, after all," Fluttershy said.

"What did you two talk about?!" Rarity asked, barely able to sit still.

"Rarity, settle down," Applejack said, "But what did y'all talk about?" she asked with equal excitement.

"Well, what did he say?" Sunset asked. Fluttershy proceeded to tell the Applejack, Sunset, and Rarity what Coppermane had told her at lunch. Not everything though, just some general details. Fluttershy didn't want to betray Coppermane by having him open up to her and then have her blab to her friends about it.

"Wowâ€¦ he's had it roughâ€¦ " Sunset said.

"Did he tell ya why he changed schools?" Applejack asked.

"No, he didn't. I forgot to ask him," Fluttershy said, looking over at Coppermane who appeared to be very focused on his work. She turned back to her friends.

"Well, sounds like you had a good conversation anyway, huh?" Sunset asked.

"Yesâ€¦ yes we did," Fluttershy said, smiling, "I hope I can talk to him again soonâ€¦ " she said, twirling her hair.

"Well, why wait?" Rarity said.

"Huh?" Fluttershy asked.

"Are you having trouble with any homework problems?" Rarity asked.

"Ohâ€¦ wellâ€¦ some problems I guessâ€¦ why?" Fluttershy asked.

Suddenly, Applejack gasped, "Y'all should ask him for help!"

Sunset gasped too, "Ooh yeah! There's an empty desk over there next to him. That's a great idea!"

Fluttershy's heart began to beat faster. She looked over at Coppermane, feeling her face heat up. He seemed quite focused on his work.

"Oh, he looks like he's trying to focus. I don't want to bother him," Fluttershy said, blushing.

"Ohâ€¦ he's not _that_ focused, Fluttershy," Rarity said, smirking.

"What do you mean?" Fluttershy asked.

"He's glanced at you about four times now," Rarity said.

Fluttershy's eyes went wide. "H-He has?"

Rarity giggled. Her eyes went wide, "Oh! He just did it

again!"

Fluttershy immediately glanced bat Coppermane, whose focus was on his work again. She turned back to her friends and began blushing and playing with her hair.

"C'mon, Fluttershy! Go over and ask him for help!" Applejack said.

"Umâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I don't knowâ€¦" Fluttershy stammered, "C-Can you go with me, Sunset?"

Sunset shook her head, "From what you told me, you did just fine on your own at lunch. You can do it, Fluttershy!"

Fluttershy pondered for a moment. She did want to talk to him again, and she _did_ have a good conversation with him at lunch. Besides, she did legitimately need help on some problems. Even if he can't help her, it would be an excuse to talk to him. What did she have to lose?

"O-Okay, I'll do it." Fluttershy said, making all her friends smile giddily.

And with that, Fluttershy stood up and gathered her things. She took a deep breath, trying to summon up all the courage she had, and slowly made her way over to her crush.

* * *

><p>Coppermane's mind raced as he worked on problems. Fluttershy was in the room. I was another chance to talk to her. But her friends were over there with her. As much as he didn't want to embarrass himself, he really wanted to talk to her. He almost didn't care if he got embarrassed, just as long as he could talk to Fluttershy.<p>

Amongst the cacophony of study groups in the classroom, Coppermane heard footsteps approaching him. He looked up to see a familiar green skirt in front of him. He looked up further, and his breath was stolen when he saw Fluttershy in front of his desk, hiding behind her hair again, and holding her binder tightly in her arms.

"Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ h-hi, Fluttershyâ€¦ " Coppermane said.

"H-Hi, C-Coppermaneâ€¦ " she said, smiling and blushing. She could barely make out her friends giggling.

"C-Can I help you with something?" Coppermane asked, rubbing his neck.

"Umâ€¦ I was wondering if you could help me with some problemsâ€¦" Fluttershy said, brushing her hair behind her ear.

"Ohâ€¦ y-yeahâ€¦ ofâ€¦ of courseâ€¦" Coppermane said, trying to mask his pounding heart with a smile. "Umâ€¦ doâ€¦ do you want to sit?" he asked, gesturing towards the desk in front of him.

Fluttershy smiled, and placed her things on the desk in front of Coppermane. She sat down and got her papers out of her binder. As she

did this, Coppermane took a moment to take in her beauty. How could one girl be so gorgeous?

"Th-Thank you, Coppermane," Fluttershy said, blushing profusely.

Coppermane snapped out of his gawking trance upon hearing her voice.

"Umâ€¦ n-no problem," Coppermane said, trying his best to not gawk at Fluttershy. Though, her big teal eyes were making it difficultâ€¦ "So, what do you need help with?"

"Umâ€¦ wellâ€¦ I did this problem, and I think I have it, but I'm not sure. C-Could you check it for me?" she asked, handing one sheet to Coppermane.

"Yeah sure. J-Just gimme a secondâ€¦" Coppermane said, taking the sheet of paper out of her hand.

Hmmâ€¦ she has really cute handwriting.

Fluttershy looked over at her friends who were all giggling and smiling. Rarity gave her a wink, making her blush.

She turned back to Coppermane who was still looking over her work. She found herself just staring at him. He had such warm, brown eyes, and the way the sunlight reflected off his coppery hair was so beautiful. She's never seen hair like that before. But something piqued her curiosityâ€¦ why was he not wearing a hoodie? He normally always wore one, so what was different about today?

"Umâ€¦ Coppermane?" Fluttershy asked.

"Hmm?" he asked.

"Can I ask you something?" she asked timidly.

"Uh, yeah sure. Wh-What is it?" he asked.

"Umâ€¦ wh-why aren't you wearing a hoodie today?" she asked.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well, I mean, I've seen you in here before, and you've always worn a hoodie," she said, "I'm just curious."

Coppermane couldn't believe she actually noticed that. He bit his lip.

I did it for you.

"Oh, well, umâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I don't knowâ€¦ I just felt likeâ€¦ doing something different, y'know?" he said, rubbing his neck. "D-Do you prefer that I wear a hoodie?"

"Oh no, I actually think it looksâ€¦ niceâ€¦" Fluttershy said, feeling her face heat up.

Coppermane's eyes went wide. "R-Really?"

Fluttershy nodded. "Mmmhmm!"

Coppermane blushed, and offered her a smile. "Wowâ€¦ umâ€¦ thanks, Fluttershy. Youâ€¦ umâ€¦ you look really nice too."

Fluttershy's eyes widened. Did he just say that?

"R-Really?" Fluttershy asked.

"Y-Yeah," Coppermane said, "You're reallyâ€¦ umâ€¦ really prettyâ€¦"

Fluttershy thought she was going to faint. Coppermane justâ€¦ _complimented_ her.

He thinksâ€¦ I'm pretty?

Fluttershy beamed, and brushed her hair behind her ear. "Ohâ€¦ wellâ€¦ th-thank you, Coppermaneâ€¦ that's very sweet of you to say," she said, unable to stop smiling.

"Y-You're welcome," Coppermane said, rubbing his neck. He locked eyes with her again, but this time he didn't dart his gaze away. And neither did she. He just looked deeply into her eyes as she looked deeply into his. Wowâ€¦ her eyes were beautifulâ€¦ like two teal diamondsâ€¦

Coppermane blinked, snapping out of his trance, "Umâ€¦ soâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I looked over your workâ€¦"

"Ohâ€¦ " Fluttershy said, breaking out of her trance, "Umâ€¦ soâ€¦ wh-what do you think?"

"Well, everything you've done is correct, but it's way more work than you needed to do," Coppermane said, "D-Do you want to see an easier way?"

Fluttershy smiled and nodded, "Yes, please."

Coppermane smiled back and turned the paper around to face her, "Okay, so here's what you could've doneâ€¦"

* * *

><p>Coppermane and Fluttershy seemed to lose track of the time, because the last school bell caught them completely off guard. Before they knew it, the everyone except them and Fluttershy's friends filed out of the room.<p>

"Ohâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I guessâ€¦ I guess class overâ€¦ " Coppermane said.

"Yeahâ€¦ I guessâ€¦ " Fluttershy said. She gathered her things and slung her backpack around her back. "Umâ€¦ th-thanks for your help, Coppermane. I really appreciate it," Fluttershy said, holding her hands in front of her.

"N-No problem. Anytime," Coppermane said, rubbing his neck, "I guess I'll see you tomorrow then?"

"Yep! Goodbyeâ€¦ " she said, giving him a smile and a wave. She walked over to reconvene with her friends, but stopped when she saw Rarity giving her some kind of gesture. She was holding her phone towards Fluttershy, pointing at her, and then pointing at Coppermane. It admittedly took Fluttershy a little bit to catch on but eventually she did. She was reluctant at first, but decided just to give it a try. With her heart pounding, she summoned up all her courageâ€¦

"Umâ€¦ Coppermane?" Fluttershy said, walking back over to her crush.

"Yeah?" Coppermane said, looking up from putting stuff in his backpack.

Fluttershy's heart felt like it was going to explode out of her chest, "Umâ€¦ wellâ€¦ this material is kind of hard, and I was wondering ifâ€¦ maybeâ€¦" she started to say, holding her hands in front of her, and feeling her face heat up.

"Maybeâ€¦ what?" Coppermane coaxed.

Fluttershy looked up at him, "Doâ€¦ do you think if I need help againâ€¦ I couldâ€¦ t-text you?"

Coppermane thought he was hearing things. _Text him_?

"Youâ€¦ want my number?" Coppermane asked.

"I meanâ€¦ if you don't want toâ€¦ th-that's fineâ€¦"

"Oh no, don't worry," Coppermane said, "I-I'd be happy to give you my number."

Fluttershy looked up in shock, "R-Really?"

Coppermane nodded and blushed, "Of course. Hereâ€¦ umâ€¦ g-gimme your phone and I'll put it in for you."

Fluttershy smiled and took her phone out. After going to her contact list, she handed it off to Coppermane. Fluttershy glanced over at the door to see Rarity standing there, who had a giddy smile on her face and was giggling. She looked at Fluttershy and gave her a wink, making her blush. Rarity walked out of the room and Fluttershy turned her attention back to Coppermane.

"Okay, h-here you go," Coppermane said, handing Fluttershy's phone back to her. She took it and looked on-screen to see Coppermane's nameâ€¦ and his phone number.

Oh my goshâ€¦ he actually gave me his numberâ€¦

"Th-Thank you. I-I'll text you later so you get mineâ€¦ " she said, trying to contain her giddiness.

"S-Sounds good," Coppermane said with a smile, "Yeah, ifâ€¦ umâ€¦ you ever need helpâ€¦ don't hesitate to get in touch."

"Thanks, Coppermane," Fluttershy said, "Have a great day."

"You too," Coppermane said. "Goodbye."

"Goodbye," Fluttershy said. And with that, Fluttershy walked to the door, but not before taking one more glance at Coppermane.

Fluttershy walked out to reconvene with her friends, and was immediately rushed by Rarity.

"Ooh! Let me see! Let me see!" Rarity said, bouncing up and down Fluttershy pulled her phone out and showed it to Rarity, who squealed with joy and pulled Fluttershy into a big hug. "Oh I'm so proud of you, darling!"

"Way ta go, sugarcube!" Applejack said.

"See? I knew you could do it!" Sunset said with a smirk.

"Yeahâ€¦" Fluttershy said quietly. Suddenly, she couldn't contain her giddiness any longer, and started giggling to herself. "Oh my gosh, he gave me his number!" she said in a high-pitched voice, letting out a big, girly squeal. She even began hopping up and down in jubilation.

Her friends laughed at her outburst, and continued to converse as they walked home. Fluttershy looked down at her phone, and couldn't wait any longer. She pulled up her messages and sent a message off to Coppermane. Now he had her number. Before she put her phone away, she gave his number a unique ringtone and vibration so she'd know right away if he ever called or texted her.

Fluttershy couldn't stop smiling. She got closer to her crush, and got his number! She could hardly wait to spend more time with him.

* * *

><p>Coppermane had the biggest smile on his face as he put his stuff away. He talked to Fluttershy today, and even gave her his number! And she asked _him_ for it!

As he walked out, he felt his phone buzz in his pocket. He took it out to see a text from an unknown number. Could it beâ€¦? He opened up his messagesâ€¦

****Unknown# to Coppermane, 2:29 PM****

**Hi, Coppermane, this is Fluttershy. Thank you so much for your help today in calculus, I really appreciate it. This chapter has been very hard, and you were very helpful. I didn't know you were so smart! I can't wait to see you tomorrow!**

_â€¦**_**

Coppermane smiled, and tried his best not to shout with excitement. He had her number now! Before he put his phone away, he gave Fluttershy's number a unique ringtone and vibration. Now he would know right away if she ever called of texted him.

Coppermane walked out of school, and realized something. No bullies today. His smile grew even bigger as he began walking home. This has been, by far, the best day of Coppermane's life. He couldn't wait to talk to Fluttershy again.

* * *

><p>**Coppermane to Fluttershy, 2:33 PM****

_Hi, Fluttershy. I'm always happy to help, and you were a great study partner. And yeah, I hear you, this chapter is pretty difficult, but if you ever need anything, don't hesitate to get in touch.__See you tomorrow :)_

_â€¦**_**

* * *

><p>All reviews are _**greatly appreciated**_**, so don't forget to leave one letting me know what you think.**

Peace out.

To see a picture of my OC, there's a link on my profile.

4. Rain

I don't own any of the MLP FiM characters, but I DO own Coppermane. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Loveliest of Trees<p>

Ch.4: Rain

Time: 6:30 AM, Tuesday, Coppermane's House, Days Until Formal: 18

Coppermane couldn't get Fluttershy out of his head. All yesterday on his way home from school, till the moment he went to sleep, he thought about her. He could even vaguely remember dreaming about her. He couldn't help it. Fluttershy was just soâ€¦ beautiful. Her eyes, her hair, her smile, her figure, everything about her was just perfect.

And she's _single_! How was is possible for a girl like Fluttershy to be single? It was uncanny, but Coppermane wasn't complaining in the slightest.

On top of that, she was without a doubt the sweetest girl he's ever met. Coppermane remembered the way she looked at him as he told his story. It wasn't one of condescendence or ire. It was one of sympathy and compassion. He didn't know why, but it was a look he knew he could trust. He felt so safe with her. It felt like he could tell her anything, and for once, he wouldn't be judged for it.

She was justâ€¦ amazingâ€¦

But Coppermane knew deep down that he shouldn't read too much into this. Maybe Fluttershy was just naturally that sweet around everyone. Maybe she was the kind of person to always lend a sympathetic ear. Maybe it was in her nature to be shy around everyone. Sure, she hid behind her hair a lot, and blushed quite a bit, but maybe that's just her personality. If it was, then Fluttershy was all the more attractive. The way she played with her hair was just so cute.

He _had_ to talk to her again. He's never felt like this about someone. Fluttershy was special. She was way more than just a pretty face, and he wanted nothing more than to get to know her more. Even if she didn't like him back, he could at least become her friend.

But what could they do together? Something that wouldn't embarrass him, and not make him look like a total idiot in front of herâ€¦

An idea popped in his head when Coppermane remembered something. He had her number now. He really enjoyed sitting with her at lunch, so why not do it again? He pulled out his phoneâ€¦

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 6:42 AM****

Hey, Fluttershy. It's Coppermane. Sorry if this is a little forward, but I wanted to ask you if you wanted to sit with me at lunch again? I really enjoyed sitting with you yesterday. Maybe we could talk about something other than my personal sob-story, huh? Lemme know what you think!

_â€¦**_**

His nerves made him apprehensive to send the message, but eventually he brought himself to do so. Hopefully it wasn't being too forward.

It was storming outside, so Coppermane decided he would throw his hoodie on, and that he would drive to school instead of walk.

Hopefully he didn't creep Fluttershy out with that textâ€¦

* * *

><p>**Fluttershy to Coppermane 7:04 AM****

Aww, I'd love to sit with you again! I'll look out for you at lunch. Thank you :)

_â€¦**_**

* * *

><p>Time: 12:05 PM, Tuesday, CHS (Lunchroom)

Fluttershy entered the cafeteria, scanning around for a particular guy. Her crush, Coppermane. He had texted her before school started, and asked if she wanted to have lunch with him again. Fluttershy was already giddy from getting a text from Coppermane, but her giddiness skyrocketed when she saw _why_ he texted her.

Fluttershy loved sitting with Coppermane yesterday. It was a little awkward at first, but once the converation got going, she had a wonderful time.

He was handsome, and he was also very sweet. He called herâ€¦ _pretty_. He thought she was _pretty_. Her mind replayed that moment over and over, and her heart melted every time. The look in his eye was so warm, and his smile was so inviting.

Fluttershy's heart skipped a beat when she saw Coppermane sitting in the same corner lunch table, all alone. He had his hoodie on again, probably because of the rain. He admittedly looked better without his hoodie, but even so, he was just so cute. Coppermane appeared to be scanning the room too. Was he looking for her?

Suddenly, they locked eyes. Fluttershy gasped and hid behind her hair. She felt her face heat up as she brushed her hair behind her ear, and met Coppermane's warm, brown eyes again. She offered a small wave, and he waved back. Was he blushing?

She slowly made her way over to his table, feeling her heart beat faster as she got closer.

* * *

><p>Meanwhile, a familiar group of girls were all sitting together, talking amongst themselves. Sunset, Rarity, and Applejack were telling the rest of them about yesterday in calculus with Fluttershy and Coppermane.<p>

"Aww, that's so cute!" Twilight said.

"Oh, I know!" Rarity said, "We're so proud of her!"

Rainbow Dash suddenly noticed something, "Hey, where is Fluttershy anyways?"

All the girls looked around the table to realize that she wasn't there.

"Ah saw her earlier today," Applejack said.

"Wonder where she is," Sunset said.

The girls scanned the room for a moment untilâ€¦

"Oh! There she is!" Rarity said, pointing towards her. They all noticed she wasn't heading towards their table.

"Where's she going?" Rainbow Dash asked.

"Is she going to sit somewhere else?" Twilight wondered.

"Oh, she's sitting with Coppermane today," Pinkie Pie said nonchalantly.

"What?!" the other girls exclaimed.

"Yeah! In film studies today, she showed me a text from him asking her to sit with him at lunch again," Pinkie Pie said, "She seemed

really excited!"

"Aww, that's sweet," Sunset said.

"Oh I'm so happy for her!" Rarity said.

The girls all giggled to each other, excited for their best friend. As they continued their conversation, they occasionally suck glances over at Fluttershy and Coppermane, eagerly waiting to see what would happen.

* * *

><p>Fluttershy soon arrived at her crush's table. Her heart felt like it was burning.<p>

"H-Hi, Coppermane," Fluttershy said.

Coppermane looked up, and his heart skipped a beat when he saw Fluttershy standing right next to his table. He felt his face heat up as he rubbed his neck.

"H-Hey, Fluttershy," he said. He gestured to the seat across from him, and she gladly sat down. Was she blushing?

"Thanks for asking me to sit with you," Fluttershy said.

"N-No problem," Coppermane said. "So, I feel like yesterday, we talked about me a little bit too much."

"Oh, I don't mind," Fluttershy said with a smile, "I liked talking about you."

"Well, thanks," Coppermane said, blushing, "Butâ€¦ I want to know about _you_."

Fluttershy's eyes widened, "M-Me? Really?"

"Yeah," Copper said with a smile, "You know a little about me, and I want to know a little about you."

A smile graced Fluttershy's blushing face. He wanted to get to know her? She brushed her hair behind her ear, and tried her best to contain her giddiness as she proceeded to tell Coppermane about herself. She talked about how much she loves animals, and how she volunteers at the animal shelter in her free time.

"â€¦and I'm also in a band with my friends," Fluttershy said

"You're in a band?" Coppermane asked with wide eyes.

Fluttershy blushed, "Mmmhmm. My friends and I. It's a lot of fun."

"What do you play?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy blushed, "Tambourine."

"That's so cool. I never would've guess that you were in a band," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy giggled, "Maybe you could come and watch us rehearse sometime?"

"C-Can I?" Coppermane asked. "I don't know, I don't want to be a burden or anything."

"Oh, you won't bother us. We'd love to have you there!" Fluttershy said. "We rehearse on Thursdays after school. I know my friends would love to meet you."

"They would?" Coppermane asked.

"Of course!" Fluttershy said.

"Hmmâ€¦ Alright, maybe I'll stop by sometime," Coppermane said.

"Do you play any instruments?" Fluttershy asked.

Coppermane bit his lip. "Well, um, I play a little piano."

Fluttershy perked up, "Oh, really?"

Suddenly, the bell rang, signaling the end of lunch period.

"Oh, well, I guess lunch is over," Coppermane said.

"Yeahâ€¦ I guess it is," Fluttershy said. "Umâ€¦ thank you for sitting with me again."

Coppermane blushed, "M-My pleasure. I-I guess I'll see you in calculus then huh?"

Fluttershy nodded, "See you then." And with that, she walked over to reconvene with her friends. Coppermane watched as she walked away, but darted his gaze away when some of her friends caught him checking her out. He could barely make out some giggling amidst the cacophony of the lunchroom.

Coppermane slung his backpack over his back, and proceeded to his next class with the biggest smile on his face. Another successful conversation with Fluttershy. He couldn't be happier.

* * *

><p>Time: 2:30 PM, Tuesday, CHS (By Coppermane's Locker)

Coppermane and Fluttershy studied together again during their calculus class period. Even after class was over, Fluttershy followed Coppermane back to his locker to continue their conversation. Coppermane didn't mind one bit. Fluttershy was just delightful, and very pleasant to talk to. She was even laughing at his corny jokes!

As Coppermane got his things out of his locker, the locker door suddenly swinged forward, clobbering Coppermane in the face with an audible, mettalic bang.

"Argh!" Coppermane grunted. His face rang in pain.

"Oh my gosh! Coppermane, are you okay?" Fluttershy beckoned.

He rubbed his cheek to numb the pain, but and his heart stopped when he heard a voice behind him.

"Hey loser. How's it hanging?" a big, familiar voice said behind him. Coppermane turned around to see two familar jocks staring back at him. He flinched, and his back hit the lockers behind him.

"Oh noâ€¦" Coppermane cooed.

"Hoops and I forgot to give you your dose yesterday," the brown-haired jock said.

"And Score and I will make up for yesterday, don't you worry," Hoops, said.

Coppermane's heart pounded. In his panicked state, he glanced at Fluttershy, and back at the jocks. But the jocks turned their attention towards her, making Coppermane's heart drop.

"Hello, who do we have here?" Score said, walking over to Fluttershy.

"Is this loser bothering you?" Hoops said in a more charming voice.

Fluttershy recoiled, and backed up into the lockers. She held her hands in front of her.

"H-He's not bothering me," Fluttershy said in a hushed voice.

Score stifled a laugh, and knocked Coppermane's things out of his hand before kicking him to the ground. He fell on his stomach with a flop. He thought he could hear Fluttershy gasp as he fell. He got to his knees, and held his stomach in pain, and coughing a little.

"There we go," Score said, "No longer a problem."

"Now that he's out of the way, what's your name?" he said to Fluttershy, leaning on the lockers and standing over her, turning up the charm in his voice.

"Umâ€¦ F-Fl-Fluttershyâ€¦" she said, quieting down towards the end.

Score mirrored his friend in leaning on the lockers, "Well, Fluttershy, how 'bout instead of hangin' out with that loser, you come hang out with us?"

"Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ n-noâ€¦ I-I'm fine," Fluttershy said sheepishly. Her heart was pounding, and she took glances at Coppermane. He was on his arms and legs, holding his stomach. Was he still in pain?

"Oh, come on, a pretty girl like you shouldn't be hanging out with a loser like that," Hoops said.

"H-He's n-n-not a loserâ€¦" she said.

Score stifled a laugh. "Don't let him fool you. Once a loser, always a loser. Are you saying you _don't_ want to hang out with a member of the football team?" he said, using his free hand to caress her arm. Fluttershy shuddered at his touch, and whimpered as she recoiled from his hand.

"Or the basketball team?" Hoops said, attempting to caress her arm as well, making her whimper and recoil away from him.

"P-Please stopâ€¦" Fluttershy said shakily, holding herself tighter in her arms, sinking closer to the ground.

"C'mon, don't be scared. You know you want to. Any girl would," Hoops coaxed, "You can't tell us you want to hang out with _that_," he said, gesturing to Coppermane, who still held his stomach.

"Ha! He must be crying again. Pathetic," Score said.

Coppermane wasn't in pain. He was eavesdropping. As he listened to the jocks, he felt something boil inside of him. He clenched his teeth and fists as his breathing deepened. His eyebrows furled at what he was hearing. Hitting on Fluttershy? Scaring her? Being disrespectful to her? They could jump Coppermane all they wanted, but doing this to _Fluttershy_?

Clenching his fists, Coppermane stood up and turned towards the jocks. His rage exploded when he saw the jocks trying to touch her.

You dare lay a finger on her?

"You know you want to," Hoops coaxed.

"Leave her alone," Coppermane said.

The jocks froze, and turned to Coppermane.

"Umâ€¦ _what_?" Hoops asked.

Coppermane clenched his fists. "I _said_â€¦ _Leave_â€¦ _Her_â€¦ _Alone_."

Fluttershy just stared at Coppermane in shock. What was he doing?

Hoops chuckled as he got in Coppermane's face. "_You're_ telling _us_ to leave her alone?"

"Can't you see you're scaring her? Why don't you just stop?" Coppermane scolded. "Can't you take a hint?"

The hall was silent for a moment, but was soon filled with the laughter of Hoops and Score.

"Oh this is great!" Hoops said, "He's actually standing up for her!"

"You have a crush on her or something?" Score said.

Coppermane's face went bright red, but tried to remain tough. He couldn't back down now.

"I just want you to leave her alone. Now go away, or I'll make you rue the day you ever touched her," Coppermane seethed.

This only made the jocks laugh harder. Coppermane's face was on fire, but he tried to maintain a tough face.

The jocks calmed down after long, and didn't seem fazed at all.

"Alright, tough guy, thanks for the laugh," Hoops said, wiping a tear out of his face. "We'll humor you for now, but don't expect us to be so nice next time."

"Just leave her be, _please_," Coppermane said.

"Yeah, whatever," Hoops said. And with that, the two of them walked off, bumping into Coppermane on their way out, and continuing to laugh.

Coppermane leaned against the locker, and let out a sigh of relief. He felt himself shaking from what just happened.

"Coppermaneâ€¦" Fluttershy said, "Youâ€¦ You stood up to themâ€¦"

Coppermane offered a smile. "Of course," he said, "I-I had to protect you."

Fluttershy's heart melted as the biggest smile graced her face. He _did_ care about her. A warm feeling washed over her as she pulled Coppermane into a big hug.

"That was so sweet of you," Fluttershy said, giving him a light squeeze. "Thank you so much."

Coppermane didn't think she would be so appreciative of what he did. Surely, not enough to _hug _him. He wasn't complaining at all, though. He wrapped his arms around her in return. Holding her in his arms felt great enough, but his heart melted even more when he felt Fluttershy nuzzle his chest. He squeezed her tighter in return. She felt so warm and delicateâ€¦

Fluttershy nuzzled Coppermane's chest, and felt him squeeze her tighter. She relaxed in his arms, and felt him relax too. His embrace was so warm and comfortingâ€¦

"Fluttershy!" a voice called out. Fluttershy immediately, yet reluctantly broke the hug upon hearing the voice. She looked to see Rarity and Sunset Shimmer approaching her, looking worried.

"Are you okay, darling? We saw everything!" Rarity said, pulling her into a hug.

"We were going to intervene, until Coppermane here beat us to it," Sunset said, patting him on the back.

Coppermane blushed, "I-I had to do somethingâ€¦" he said, rubbing his neck.

Rarity released Fluttershy, and faced Coppermane. "Well that was very sweet of you. I don't believe we've formally met. I'm Rarity!" she said, holding her hand out.

Coppermane shook her hand, "I'm Coppermane. I think we have calculus together, right?"

"You are correct!" Rarity said.

Sunset put her hand on Fluttershy's shoulder. "You alright?"

Fluttershy nodded, "I-I'm fine," she said, looking over at Coppermane with a smile.

"Well, do you want to come to the Sweet Shoppe with us?" Sunset asked.

Fluttershy blushed, "Actuallyâ€¦ umâ€¦ I think I'll be okay," she said, looking at Coppermane. Their eyes met, making them both blush.

Rarity and Sunset looked at each other knowingly. They knew what was up.

"Alright, well, have fun you two," Sunset said, "We'll see you later."

The group split up, but not before Rarity gave Fluttershy a wink, making her face heat up.

Fluttershy looked back at Coppermane, "Thank you again, Coppermane," she said with red cheeks.

Coppermane rubbed his neck. "N-No problem. Anytime."

"I-I guess we could justâ€¦ talk until the rain stops," Fluttershy said, shuffling her feet.

"Do you usually walk home?" Coppermane asked. Fluttershy nodded, giving Coppermane an idea. "Well, maybe we don't have to wait.

Fluttershy rose an eyebrow. "Huh?"

"I-I drove to school today because of the rain. Doâ€¦do you want a ride?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy's eyes widened, "You'd do that for me?"

Coppermane offered a smile, "Of course. I mean, as long as you give me directions on the way, yeah I'd be happy to drive you home."

Fluttershy smiled. Could this guy be any sweeter? She twirled her hair, "I'd love that."

Coppermane smiled, "Awesome. Should we get going then?"

Fluttershy looked outside, and bit her lip. "Umâ€¦ I forgot. I don't have an umbrella. Do you have one?"

"Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ noâ€¦ I don't." Coppermane pondered for a moment. His car wasn't that close to the school. He didn't want her to get wet. Or worse, catch a cold. What could he do?

"Waitâ€¦ I think I might have something," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy rose an eyebrow. "Oh?"

Coppermane said nothing, but instead started taking his hoodie off.

"Here, put this on," Coppermane said, holding his hoodie out to Fluttershy.

Fluttershy's eyes went wide. "Whâ€¦ Whaâ€¦"

"I know it's not much, but it's better than nothing, right?" Coppermane said.

"Coppermane, are you sure? You'll catch a cold," Fluttershy said.

"Well, you will too, won't you?" Coppermane said.

"Wellâ€¦ yes, butâ€¦"

"Fluttershy, don't worry about me. I just want you to stay dry. Take it," Coppermane said.

A big smile grew on Fluttershy's face. "Are you sure?"

"Absolutely," Coppermane said. "Take it."

Fluttershy smiled, and reached out to take his hoodie. The fabric was so soft.

"You're too sweet," Fluttershy said.

Coppermane rubbed his neck. "I-It's nothing, really."

"No, really. I mean it," Fluttershy said. "Thank you so much."

Coppermane smiled as his cheeks went bright red. "Y-You're welcome."

Fluttershy giggled at his blushing face. She didn't know why, but he was just too adorable when he blushed. She found the bottom of the hoodie, and proceeded to put it on. The sleeves were a little long, but other than that, it was a perfect fit. The fabric was so soft, andâ€¦ it smelled like him.

Coppermane couldn't help but smile. She looked adorable in his hoodie. It was a little big for her, but it only made her look even

cuter.

"Thank you," Fluttershy said.

"N-No problem," Coppermane said, "You ready to go?"

Fluttershy nodded, and the two of them walked to the exit. They braced themselves at the door, with Fluttershy putting her hood up, before bolting for Coppermane's car. They quickly got in, and were left panting from the running.

"Jeezâ€¦" Coppermane said, breathing hard.

"I knowâ€¦" Fluttershy said, panting. She put her hood down, and tossed her hair from side to side to fan it out.

Coppermane watched in awe as Fluttershy fixed her hair. The way she tossed her hair was magnificent, and filled the car with the scent of roses.

Fluttershy finished fixing her hair, and saw Coppermane looking at her. She looked away, blushing profusely. Was he watching her? Her heart danced at the thought.

Oh my gosh, Coppermane is driving me home!

"Well, before we get going, do you want to listen to anything?" Copper asked, starting his car up.

"Whatever you want is fine," Fluttershy said with a smile.

Coppermane pulled out his phone. He scrolled through his library and found something he thought Fluttershy would like. He hit play, and was happy when Fluttershy smiled at the first few chords. With that, he backed the car out, and was bound for Fluttershy's house.

* * *

><p>Time: 3:30 PM, Tuesday, Outside Fluttershy's House

Fluttershy's face had a permanent smile while she was in Coppermane's car. He was driving her home! She could hardly contain how thrilled she was. She actually made him take a longer route on purpose, just so she could spend more time with him.

He's been so nice to her today. Spending so much time with her, protecting her from jocks, driving her home, and offering her his hoodie just so she wouldn't catch a cold. She didn't know it was possible for a guy to be so sweet.

Eventually, and unfortunately, they arrived at Fluttershy's house.

"Coppermane, thank you so much for driving me home. I really appreciate it," Fluttershy said.

Coppermane blushed. "Anytime."

Fluttershy knew she would have to get out of the car eventuallyâ€¦ but she had to know one more thing before their time together was over for the day. As much as she didn't want to ask him about his past again, the incident with the bullies today just made her too curious.

"Umâ€¦ Coppermane?" Fluttershy said.

"Hmm?"

"Can I ask you something?" she asked, playing with her hands.

"Sure, what is it?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy started playing with her hair, "Umâ€¦ this is kind of a weird questionâ€¦ butâ€¦"

"Yeah?" Coppermane coaxed.

"Umâ€¦ why do you think you were bullied?" Fluttershy asked. "I meanâ€¦ why do those mean jocks want to hurt you all the time?

Coppermane rose an eyebrow. He looked down, pondering to himself. It was a good question. Why did they take such sadistic joy in jumping him every day?

"I-If it's too personal, th-that's fine. Y-You don't have to answer," Fluttershy said.

"No no, it's fine. It's actually something I've been wondering myself. Likeâ€¦ what did I do? What did I do to deserve being jumped by bullies every day? I meanâ€¦ I guess it's becauseâ€¦ I'm different. I mean, even at my old school, I was different. I wasn't involved in sports, nor clubs. I spent a lot of my free time studying mostly because I had nothing better to do. I had no friends, and I'm pretty scrawny if you couldn't already tell. I'm your trademark nerd. I was the school loser, and I guess nothing's changed at CHS, I mean, you saw what happened last Friday. I get pushed around a little bit, and I'm reduced to tears. How patheticâ€¦ That's just what I am. A pathetic loser."

Fluttershy couldn't believe what she was hearing. She's never seen such a lack of self-esteem. How can anyone talk about themselves like that? Did he really think he was worthless? How can anyone bully themselves like that?

"Coppermaneâ€¦ don't say such awful things," Fluttershy said.

"But it's true," Coppermane said. "I'm pathetic."

"Coppermane, stop saying that. You're not pathetic," Fluttershy said.

"You're just saying that."

"No I'm not. You're a great guy, Coppermane."

Coppermane suddenly felt something on his hand. Something small and delicateâ€¦ and familiar. He looked at his hand to see Fluttershy's

hand on his.

"Coppermane, ever since I met you, you've been nothing but sweet. Don't believe everything those mean bullies tell you. You're anything but a loser. You're not worthless. You've been through a lot, but that doesn't mean you're pathetic, because you're not. You're a great guy."

Coppermane bit his lip. "Fluttershy, you've only known me for a couple daysâ€¦"

"I know you well enough to see that you're anything but a loser, Coppermane," Fluttershy said. "Those bullies don't know you like I do."

Coppermane looked up into her eyes, and saw what he saw yesterday. A look he could trust. A look of sympathy and compassion. A look that gave him more comfort than anything else ever has. Her words were so sweet, and her soft voice melted his heart.

Coppermane managed a small smile. "Wowâ€¦ umâ€¦ thanks, Fluttershyâ€¦"

Fluttershy smiled, and pulled him into another big hug. "You're very welcome."

Coppermane was surprised to feel her embrace again, but he didn't fight it at all. He wrapped his arms around her, and pulled her closer. She nuzzled him again, making him shudder. He tried something bold, and started brushing her hair. He felt her relax in his arms, and could hear a faint moan. Her hair was so soft and silkyâ€¦

"Umâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I think I should be going nowâ€¦" Fluttershy said, reluctantly pulling away from Coppermane's arms.

"Ohâ€¦ O-Okayâ€¦" Coppermane said. He felt his face heat up. He could still feel her hair running though his fingers.

"Thanks for everything. I had such a wonderful day," Fluttershy said with a smile.

"N-No problem. The pleasure was mine," Coppermane said.

"Have a great afternoon," Fluttershy said.

"Thanks," Coppermane said. "Have a good one."

Fluttershy put her hood up, and slung her backpack around her back. She braced herself and bolted to her front door in the pouring rain. She made it inside, and looked back to watch Coppermane's car drive away. She blew a kiss in his direction before walking inside.

She closed the door, and immediately let out a giddy, girly squeal in excitement. She and Coppermane were getting closer. This was almost too good to be true. Fluttershy sat down on her couch and felt something brush her hair. She felt around behind her head, and feltâ€¦ a hood? But Fluttershy didn't own a hoodie.

She had an epiphany. She was still wearing Coppermane's hoodie. She

forgot to give it back to him!

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 3:44 PM****

Copper, I forgot to give your hoodie back! You can come back and get it if you want. I'm so sorry!

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 3:46 PM****

Yeah, I noticed that as soon as I started leaving. You know what, you can hang onto it for now, and just give it to me tomorrow at school. I've got plenty more where that came from. Nothing to be sorry about. Besidesâ€¦if you don't mind me sayingâ€¦you look cute in it. See you tomorrow :)

__â€¦_**_**

Fluttershy squealed again. Being told by Coppermane that she was cuteâ€¦ it tickled her unlike anything else could. She relaxed on her couch, and found that she couldn't stop thinking about him.

What a wonderful day.

* * *

><p>All reviews are _**greatly **_**appreciated, so don't forget to leave one letting me know what you think.**

Peace out.

To see a picture of my OC, there's a link on my profile.

5. Taking Risks

I don't own any of the MLP FiM characters, but I DO own Coppermane. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Loveliest of Trees<p>

Ch.5: Taking Risks

Time: 12:05 PM, Wednesday, Coppermane's House, Days Until Formal: 17

Coppermane laid in his bed with a heavy head, and bad cough. He had gotten a little sick from being out in the rain without proper clothing. I.E. from not wearing his hoodie. He decided it would be best to stay home from school today.

At least he could help Fluttershy stay dry by giving his hoodie to her, so it went to good use.

Ahâ€¦ Fluttershyâ€¦

Images of the cutest girl ever filled Coppermane's mind again. Yesterday was so amazing. He got to sit with her at lunch again. He got to study with her again. He got to drive her home, and give her

his hoodie. He even got to protect her from the jocks. Coppermane furled his eyebrows at the memory of the jocks hitting on Fluttershy. The way they tried to touch her, even though she was clearly scared. Could they not take a hint? The thought of anybody being disrespectful to Fluttershy made his blood boil.

But the best part of yesterday, by far, was feeling Fluttershy's embrace. Coppermane held his pillow in his arms, imagining it was Fluttershy. She was so warm and delicate. He could still smell the sweet scent of her soft, silky hair. His heart melted at the memory of her nuzzling his chest. It was the most adorable thing Coppermane has ever seen. For the first time, he felt appreciated.

He would give anything to hold her again.

Somehow, Fluttershy even convinced him to open up to her more. He was hesitant at first, but afterwards, he felt so much closer to her.

Coppermane's phone suddenly buzzed next to him. Did Coppermane get at text? Who would ever want to text _him_? He picked his phone up, and his heart skipped a beat when he saw Fluttershy's name onscreen. _Fluttershy_ was texting him? He wasted no time in opening the message up.

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:07 PM****

**Hi, Coppermane! I wanted to sit with you again, but I can't find you. Where are you? Or if you don't want to sit with me, that's okay too.**

_â€¦**_**

Fluttershy was searching for him? She _wanted_ to sit with him again? The biggest smile grew on Coppermane's face. She was _looking_ for himâ€¦

Coppermane's smile soon faded when he would have to tell her that he wasn't at school today. Would she be disappointed? On any other day, Coppermane would love to stay home from school, but he felt really bummed out that he wouldn't see Fluttershy today.

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:09 PM****

Hi, Fluttershy! I'm sorry, but I'm actually not at school today. I got sick, so I stayed home. I would've loved to sit with you again though. I'm sorry :(

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:10 PM****

Oh no! Is it because you gave me your hoodie yesterday? I'm so sorry! :(

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:11 PM****

Yeah, it was probably because of that. But you have nothing to be sorry about. It's all good :)

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:12 PM****

But you gave your hoodie to me, and you got sick because of it. I feel terrible :.(

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:15 PM****

Well, did you get sick at all?

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:17 PM****

No I didn't. Your hoodie is actually very comfortable. I wore it to school today so I could return it to you.

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:18 PM****

Oh really? Haha, I'm glad you like it. And I don't care if I get sick or not, as long as you're comfortable, that's all that matters to me.

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:20 PM****

You're too sweet for your own good. Are you okay?

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:22 PM****

Well, at the moment, not really, but I should be fine for tomorrow. It's just a bad cold, nothing too serious.

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:23 PM****

That's good. I still feel awful :(

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:25 PM****

Haha, you have nothing to be sorry about. This is all my fault. I'll be at school tomorrow, so don't worry. Maybe I can watch your band practice? Btw, you never told me the name of your band.

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:31 PM****

Oh, I'm sorry! We're called the Rainbooms, and I just asked the girls if they would be alright with you watching us practice, and they said yes! They're so excited to meet you!

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:33 PM****

I can't wait to hear you guys!

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:35 PM****

If you are at school tomorrow, do you want to sit with me at lunch again? You don't have to if you don't want to.

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:37 PM****

I'd love to sit with you again! I was about to ask the same thing.

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:39 PM****

Yay! Okay, I need to go. Class is about to start. Thanks for talking to me! Take care of yourself, please?

Coppermane to Fluttershy, 12:41 PM****

I will. See you tomorrow.

Fluttershy to Coppermane, 12:43 PM****

I can't wait! Have a wonderful day :)

_â€¦**_**

* * *

><p>Time: 2:40 PM, Thursday, CHS (Music Room), Days Until Formal: 16

As promised, Coppermane was back in school, which made Fluttershy ecstatic. Yesterday felt so weird without him.

Coppermane's throat was still sore from being sick yesterday, so they didn't talk much, but Fluttershy didn't mind. She was just happy to be around him again.

She almost didn't want to return his hoodie. She wore it all day yesterday, and it was like he was still with her, even though he wasn't. It was a little slice of him for her to carry around, and a reminder that he was willing to get sick just so she wouldn't.

It was hard to believe that she was becoming so close to Coppermane. They've only known each other for a few days, yet he already cared about her so much. He's been so nice to her. She found herself growing more comfortable around him, yet she still felt weak around him. She couldn't help it. He was just so cute and sweet.

He wasâ€¦ amazingâ€¦

But maybe he was just like this around everyone. Maybe once he warmed up to someone, he was always this sweet. Stillâ€¦ even her closest friends weren't this nice to her. And the way he smiled at herâ€¦ it was heart-melting.

Fluttershy was happy that she and Coppermane were friends now, but maybe they could become more someday?

Coppermane and Fluttershy decided to go straight to the music room after class in order avoid another encounter with Hoops and Score. Coppermane didn't want to deal with them today, and also didn't want Fluttershy to get hurt or hit on.

They entered the music room to find the rest of Fluttershy's friends getting set up.

"Hi, Fluttershy!" Twilight said.

"Hi!" said the rest of them.

Fluttershy smiled and waved, "Hello!"

"And look who she brought with her!" Sunset said, "How's it going, Coppermane?"

"Hey, Sunset. It's going alright," Coppermane said, rubbing his neck.

A blue girl with rainbow hair and a blue electric guitar slung over her back approached him. He didn't recognize her.

"So, you're Coppermane, huh?" she asked.

"Umâ€¦ yeah?" Coppermane said, rubbing his neck.

"Nice to finally meet you. Name's Rainbow Dash, the awesome lead guitarist of this equally awesome band," she said, holding her hand out.

"Nice to meet you," Coppermane said, shaking her hand.

Rainbow Dash stepped aside when another girl came up from behind her. She had blonde hair and a cowgirl hat, and had an electric bass slung over her back. Coppermane recognized her from calculus.

"Howdy, Coppermane," she said with a southern drawl. She held out her hand, "Ma name's Applejack. Nice ta meet ya."

"Nice to meet you too," Coppermane said, shaking Applejack's hand.

Coppermane looked around the room to see what everybody else played. Twilight and Sunset appeared to be the lead singers, and Sunset had a guitar as well, so she probably doubled as backup guitarist. Pinkie Pie was on the drums, Fluttershy, like she told him, was on tambourine, and Rarity was on keytar.

The only oddball was a random guy in the room. He had light-orange skin and blue, windswept hair. He appeared to be talking to Twilight as he helped the girls set up. Was he in the band too?

Twilight looked over at Coppermane, and back at the blue-haired guy. She gave him a gesture, and then brought him over to Coppermane.

"Sorry, I forgot to introduce you two," Twilight said, "Coppermane, this is Flash Sentry. He's a good friend of ours," she said, blushing slightly."

Flash Sentry held out his hand, "Hi, Coppermane. Heard a lot about you."

Coppermane shook his hand, "Nice to meet you. Heard a lot about me? Have the girls been talking about me?"

Flash chuckled, "Well, they've told me that you've been hanging out with Fluttershy a lot recently."

Coppermane blushed, "Ohâ€¦ they've told you about that, huh?" he said, rubbing his neck.

"Sorry, Coppermane," Twilight said with an apologetic smile.

"Oh, it's fine," Coppermane said, still rubbing his neck, "I meanâ€¦ it's trueâ€¦" he said, smiling and looking over at Fluttershy. She made eye contact with him, and her cheeks immediately flushed a bright red. She hid behind her hair as she offered a small wave. Coppermane smiled and waved back, feeling his face heat up.

Twilight giggled, "You two talk for a little while. We'll let you know when we're ready," she said, returning to helping the Rainbooms set up.

Coppermane sat on the bench in front of the grand piano and Flash Sentry pulled up a chair.

"So are you in the Rainbooms too?" Coppermane asked.

"Nope, I'm just hanging out. I'm just good friends with them," Flash said, "I have my own band."

"Oh really?" Coppermane asked, intrigued.

Flash nodded, "We're called Flash Drive, and I'm the lead guitarist," he said with a smile, "You like music?"

"You kidding? I love music," Coppermane said, "I've taught myself how to read music, and even some music theory."

"Huh, you study music in your free time?" Flash said, raising an eyebrow.

Coppermane bit his lip. He must've sounded like a total nerd right then.

"Umâ€¦ among other thingsâ€¦" Coppermane said, rubbing his neck, "I kind of have no lifeâ€¦"

To Coppermane's surprise, Flash Sentry chuckled, "Well, more power to you for studying. Do you play any instruments?"

"I play a little bit of piano, but I'm terrible at it," Coppermane said modestly, "If you hand me a lyric sheet with the chord symbols above the lyrics, I can play that with practice. That's about it."

"That's cool!" Flash Sentry said.

"Iâ€¦ I guess," Coppermane said, "But it's not something that I can use toâ€¦ impress people, y'know?"

"Oh, I wouldn't be too sure about that."

"Huh?" Coppermane said.

"I know _plenty_ of girls who love guys who can play instruments," Flash said, "Some are in this room right now."

Well, I have a feeling they'll just laugh once they hear how bad I am."

"Aw, c'mon," Flash said, "I know these girls would love to hear you play. Maybe after they rehearse, you can show us what you can do?"

Coppermane rubbed his neck, "Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ I-I don't know about that. They'll just laughâ€¦"

Flash brought his volume down a little, and leaned in to whisper. "You know, Fluttershy would love it if you played something."

Coppermane's eyes went wide. "S-She would?"

Before Flash could say anythingâ€¦

"Alright guys," Rainbow Dash said, "You ready to hear from the most awesome band in the world?"

Looks like the girls were ready, and Coppermane was extremely anxious to hear from them.

"Let's hear it!" Flash said.

Pinkie Pie banged her drumsticks together, and the band started playing.

"1â€¦ 2â€¦ 3â€¦ 4â€¦!"

â€¦

_-(Song: _**_Shine Like Rainbows_**_- Go to my profile for a link to the song playlist for this story!)-_

Wowâ€¦they were good. Really good. Right off the bat, they played with energy and vigor, and everybody sounded great.

Coppermane began nodding his head to the beat, and the song still sounded great. Coppermane admittedly paid most attention to Fluttershy. It made him smile to see her having so much fun. She made eye contact with him a few times, and each time, she offered that adorable smile of hers. Coppermane blushed every time.

But around the chorus, something strange, almost otherworldly happened. Suddenly, their hair started to glow, and all the girls grew ponytail hair extensions, and their heads sproutedâ€¦ pony ears? But the piÃ¨ce de rÃ©sistance was when Rainbow Dash, Twilight, and Fluttershy grewâ€¦wings? Coppermane was trying to wrap his head around what he was seeing. What was this magic? What in the world was happening?

â€¦

The song ended, and just as mysteriously as they appeared, the magic, pony-like features disappeared in the blink of an eye.

"Sounded great girls!" Flash Sentry said, giving them applause.

"Thanks, Flash," Twilight said, shuffling her feet.

"What did you think, Coppermane?" Rainbow Dash asked, looking over to Coppermane. The girls were surprised to see him completely bug-eyed, with his mouth hanging slightly open.

"Umâ€¦ Coppermane?" Applejack said, "You okay?"

He shook his head vigorously, "Umâ€¦ what the heck just happened?"

"What do you mean?" Sunset asked, as if nothing out of the ordinary had just happened.

"You girls were playing and thenâ€¦ earsâ€¦ tailsâ€¦ wingsâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I don't even knowâ€¦" Coppermane stammered.

The girls and Flash just laughed, confusing Coppermane even more.

"Oh, we have no idea why it happens either, darling," Rarity said, putting her keytar down.

"It happens whenever we play," Applejack said.

"We don't really question it though, because it makes us look fabulous!" Rarity said, flipping her hair.

"Ohâ€¦ okayâ€¦" Coppermane said. Apparently even they didn't know how it worked, so he decided not to question it further.

Besides, Fluttershy looked amazing with her ponytail and wings. It made her even prettier than she already was, as if that was even possible.

"Soâ€¦ did we sound good?" Rainbow Dash asked, still wanting an answer to her question.

"Oh, yeah, you girls sounded fantastic!" Coppermane said.

"Awwâ€¦ thanks, Coppermane," Fluttershy said, shuffling her feet.

"So Coppermane, y'all play any instruments?" Applejack asked.

Coppermane rubbed his neck. "Umâ€¦ wellâ€¦ I play a little pianoâ€¦"

"Oh, really?" Rarity said, excitedly.

"That's so cool!" Sunset said.

"Ohâ€¦ wellâ€¦ not really. I'm pretty badâ€¦" Coppermane said.

"Well, maybe you should let us be the judge of that," Rainbow Dash said with a smirk.

"Huh?" Coppermane said.

"You're at a grand piano right now," Rainbow said. "Let's hear something!"

"Ooh yeah! Play something!" Pinkie Pie said, jumping up and down in excitement. The others all clamored in agreement, gathering around the piano.

Coppermane's heart dropped. "Wh-What?"

"Play something for us, darling!" Rarity said, leaning on the left side of the piano.

"Wellâ€¦ umâ€¦ I can only play chordsâ€¦" Coppermane said.

"Do you sing at all?" Sunset asked.

Coppermane's heart started beating faster, "Umâ€¦ wellâ€¦ a littleâ€¦ butâ€¦"

"Oh come on Coppermane," Flash said, patting him on the back reassuringly, "We just want to see what you can do."

"We're won't laugh at you or anything, if that's what you're afraid of," Rarity said, leaning on the piano. "We only want to hear how talented you are. Don't be shy, dear."

Coppermane bit his lip. "Wellâ€¦ umâ€¦"

"Coppermane?" Fluttershy said next to him. She boldly sat next to him on the bench, and gave him a subtle puppy-dog look.
"Please?"

Coppermane froze upon seeing her face. Her bottom lip was pouted slightly, and her eyes were shimmering. He felt a tug at his heartstrings. He sighed in defeat. He couldn't disappoint Fluttershy. Why did she have to be so cute?

"Wellâ€¦ o-okayâ€¦" Coppermane said. The girls clamored in excitement, and gathered around the piano with big grins. Coppermane's heart felt like it was going to pound out of his chest as he scrolled through his chord sheet library on his phone. He found one of his favorite songs to play and sing. He placed his phone on the stand, and cracked his knuckles. With a deep breath, he began to playâ€¦

_-(Song: __**House of Gold**__- Go to my profile for a link to the song playlist for this story!)-_

Coppermane sang the last note, and played the last chord. He looked up and was surprised to see everyone completely bug-eyed.

"Umâ€¦ h-how was that?" Coppermane asked, shrinking in his seat.

"That. Was. Awesome!" Rainbow Dash exclaimed.

"So good!" Pinkie Pie squealed.

"Coppermane, I can't believe you doubted yourself!" Rarity said, "Your voice is lovely!"

"Coppermane, that was wonderful!" Twilight said.

"That was great, Coppermane!" Sunset said.

"It was amazin'!" Applejack said.

Coppermane lit up at their praise. "Waitâ€¦ r-really?"

Fluttershy giggled. "Coppermane, I didn't know you were so talented!" she said with a huge smile on her face.

Coppermane's heart melted at her compliment. "Umâ€¦ th-thanks, Fluttershy," he said, rubbing his neck. He felt his face heat up.

"Sing something else! Sing something else!" Pinkie Pie said, and everybody else clamored in agreement.

Coppermane smiled, and scrolled through his chord sheets to find another song. He found one that was a little more difficult, but playable.

-(Song:**_Pure Imagination_**_- Go to my profile for a link to the song playlist for this story!)-_

Coppermane finished the final chord and looked up to see the girls all looking at him with big smiles and relaxed eyes.

"Coppermaneâ€¦ you have such a beautiful voiceâ€¦" Rarity said with her hand over her heart. The girls all nodded in agreement.

Coppermane's face was on fire. "R-Really?"

"It was like a little slice of heaven," Applejack said with a smile.

Coppermane rubbed his neck and blushed, "Wowâ€¦ th-thanks everyoneâ€¦"

"Coppermaneâ€¦ that was amazing," Fluttershy said, brushing her hair behind her ear, blushing majorly.

Coppermane's heart soared. "G-Glad you liked it," he said.

"Another song?" Pinkie Pie asked, raising the pitch of her voice at the end.

"Um, actually, I think I need to draw the line there," Coppermane said. "My throat's a little sore."

"You sounded like that with a sore throat?" Sunset asked.

"Umâ€¦ yes?" Coppermane said.

"Impressive," Sunset said, making Coppermane blush.

With that, the girls returned to their rehearsal.

"Coppermane. Up high." Flash said, holding his hand up. Coppermane gave him a high-five, "The girls were swooning over you."

Coppermane blushed, "Ohâ€¦ wellâ€¦ I don't know about thatâ€¦"

"I saw their faces. Believe me, they adored you," Flash said, "See? It wasn't as bad as you thought it would be, right?"

Coppermane chuckled, "I guess notâ€¦"

"You know, Coppermane. You're alright," Flash said.

Coppermane smiled, "You too, Flash," he said, giving Flash Sentry a fist bump before they both turned their attention to the girls.

Did all of that really just happen? Did Coppermane just impress a group of pretty girls? It was like a dream come true. He was actually _good_ at something?

And _Fluttershy_ was impressed! That smile she gave himâ€¦ the way her eyes twinkledâ€¦ it was heart-melting.

Coppermane made eye contact with her again as she practiced. She gave him another smile and wave. Her cheeks were bright red, and she hid behind her hair. She was so cute.

Coppermane felt something stir within him as he watched Fluttershy practice. A feeling of yearning and energy. A feeling of courage.

It was time to take a riskâ€¦

* * *

><p>Time: 4:00 PM, Thursday, CHS (Hallways)

With their rehearsal done, the Rainbooms were ready to part ways. Before they said goodbye, everyone exchanged numbers with Coppermane so he'd have people to get in contact with if he needed help.

Sunset, Rarity, Applejack, and Fluttershy were planning on study together while everyone else got a bite to eat for dinner. Rainbow Dash, Pinkie Pie, Twilight, and Flash Sentry bid their farewells, and left for the day. Everyone else lingered, however. Coppermane had one more thing to do before the day was overâ€¦ Before he said goodbye to Fluttershy for the dayâ€¦

"Umâ€¦ Fluttershy?" Coppermane asked.

"Yes?" Fluttershy asked with a smile.

"C-Can I talk to you alone for a moment?" Coppermane asked.

"Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ of course," Fluttershy said. She looked at her friends, who were all smirking at her. She looked back at Coppermane, and he brought her to a small alcove in the hall.

"What is is, Coppermane?" Fluttershy asked with a smile.

Coppermane's heart was pounding. "Umâ€¦ I-I just wanted to ask you ifâ€¦ umâ€¦ if you were doing anything tomorrow. A-After school, I mean."

"Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ I don't think I have anything," Fluttershy said. "Why do you ask?"

Coppermane felt a huge lump in his throat. "Wellâ€¦ umâ€¦ Iâ€¦ Iâ€¦"

Fluttershy giggled at his stuttering. "What's wrong, Coppermane? What do you want to ask me?"

Coppermane took a deep breath, trying to calm himself. He could hear his heartbeat ringing in his ear.

"Iâ€¦ I just wanted to know if youâ€¦ umâ€¦ w-wanted toâ€¦" He lowered his voice to a whisper. "G-Gooutwithmeâ€¦"

"Wh-What?" Fluttershy asked. "I didn't hear you."

"Do you want to go out with me?" Coppermane said in a louder voice than he meant. His heart practically stopped when he realized what he just asked. It was out there nowâ€¦

Fluttershy's eyes went wide. Her mouth hung open. Did he just sayâ€¦?

"G-Go out with you?" Fluttershy asked.

Coppermane saw her wide eyes, and immediately panicked. "Oh gosh, I'm such a creep. I-I'm sorry, forget I even asked that."

"No no, Coppermane. You're not a creep," Fluttershy quickly said. "Areâ€¦ are you asking me onâ€¦ a _date_?"

Coppermane bit his lip, scolding himself inside for his minor panic attack. "Umâ€¦ y-yeah. I just figured we couldâ€¦ hang out at my placeâ€¦ order a pizzaâ€¦ watch a movie or somethingâ€¦ n-nothing too big or grandiose. I just want to spend more time with you," He looked at Fluttershy's still wide eyes, and felt another lump in his throat. "Soâ€¦ wh-what do you think?" He felt his flaming heart pounding against his chest, threatening to punch out. He felt his arm trembling as he rubbed his neck, and felt beads of sweat creeping out of his skin. He held his breath as he waited for Fluttershy's answer.

Fluttershy's heart soared with elation. It was really happening. Coppermane was asking her out! She fought with every fiber of her being to not scream in excitement as a huge smile grew on her face.

"Coppermaneâ€¦ thatâ€¦ that sounds wonderful," Fluttershy said, trying her best not to cry, "Iâ€¦ I'd love to go out with you."

Coppermane's heartbeat suddenly relaxed to a normal pulse. His arms ceased shaking, and he felt a wave of relief and jubilation wash over him. Did he hear her correctly?

"Youâ€¦ you would?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy giggled. "Of course. You've been so nice to me this week, and I'd love to spend more time with you. A date sounds wonderful," she said, blushing profusely and playing with her hair. She tried so hard not to squeal at what was happening.

A huge smile grew on Coppermane's face. She said _yes_!

"Wowâ€¦ umâ€¦ o-okay then. D-Does seven o-clock tomorrow work for you?" Coppermane asked, trying to contain the sheer amount of happiness within him.

"That sounds perfect," Fluttershy said.

"A-Awesome," Coppermane said. "Iâ€¦ I guess I'll see you tomorrow?"

"Mmmhmm! Goodbye, Coppermane," Fluttershy said.

"Goodbye," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy stepped forward and gave Coppermane a big hug, which he immediately reciprocated. His embrace was so warm and comfortingâ€¦

They released each other, and Fluttershy started to walk away towards her friends. She stopped about halfway between when she felt an urge to look at Coppermane one more time. She turned around, and saw him leaning against the lockers with the biggest smile on his face. He appeared to be chuckling to himself. Fluttershy giggled herself. He was just too cute.

Suddenly, she felt another urge. One that was a little more daring and boldâ€¦

"Coppermane!"

Coppermane perked up when he heard Fluttershy's voice again. He looked to his side, and saw her walking up to him.

"Yeah?"

Fluttershy stopped in front of him, staying silent. Her cheeks were bright red as she placed a hand on his shoulder, lifted her head, and gave him a kiss on cheek.

Coppermane's heart melted. His eyes went wide, and his mouth hung slightly open. Didâ€¦ did she justâ€¦?

Fluttershy was afraid she crossed a boundary when she saw his shocked expression, but could only giggle when his face went bright red. He lifted his hand to touch his cheek where she kissed him, making her blush even more.

"H-Have a wonderful day, Coppermane," Fluttershy said.

"Y-Yeahâ€¦ y-you tooâ€¦" Coppermane said.

Coppermane watched as Fluttershy walked back to reconvene with her friends. The way her hair swayed and the way her hips subtly sashayed was hypnotic. She stopped to look at him one more time, and gave him a blushing smile before meeting up with her friends.

_I think I'm in love_â€¦

He rubbed his cheek where she kissed him. He was caught completely off guard, but didn't hate it in the least. His cheek felt warm from her lips. Her soft, tender lips.

_I'm never washing my cheek again__â€¦_

And best of allâ€¦ he had a date with her tomorrow. He did it. He asked her out, and she said _yes_. Was he having just one long dream? There's no way this was really happening. He had a _date_ with _Fluttershy_!

With the biggest smile on his face, he made his way home to start cleaning. His crush was coming over tomorrow!

* * *

><p>"You kissed him on the cheek?!" Rarity squealed.<p>

Fluttershy's face was bright red. "Iâ€¦ I didâ€¦" she said, making Rarity squeak in excitement.

"What did he talk to you about?" Sunset asked.

Fluttershy didn't answer for a second, but soon, she let out a big, giddy, girly squeal.

"He asked me out!"

"What?!" her friends exclaimed.

Fluttershy squealed again. "I'm going on a date with him tomorrow!"

Rarity pulled her into a big hug. "Oh, darling! I'm so happy for you!"

"Congratulations, sugarcube!" Applejack said.

"That's so awesome!" Sunset said.

Fluttershy couldn't believe it was actually happening. She had a _date_ with _Coppermane_ tomorrow! It was too good to be true. Would they really become more than friends?

And she worked up the courage to kiss him on the cheek. She remembered his face after she kissed him. So cute!

She's never been so excited in her life. Tomorrow night, she would be on a date with Coppermane. If only tomorrow would come fasterâ€¦

* * *

><p>**Fluttershy to Coppermane, 10:30

PM****

Coppermane, I just wanted to say that you were amazing at our band practice today. I had no idea that you were so talented. You have such a beautiful singing voice, and I hope that's not the last time we'll hear it. Sorry if I woke you up, but I couldn't resist! I'll see you tomorrow :)

_â€¦**_**

* * *

><p>All reviews are _**greatly **_**appreciated, so don't forget to leave one letting me know what you think.**

Peace out.

To see a picture of my OC, there's a link on my profile.

6. Revelations

So I decided to combine Ch.6 and Ch.7 together in order to make the plot tighter. For new readers, I won't say anything else to avoid spoilers. This warning is mostly for my loyal readers who read the original version, and might be wondering why there are only 18 chapters instead of 19.

I don't own any of the MLP FiM characters, but I DO own Coppermane and the plot. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Loveliest of Trees<p>

Ch.6: Revelations

Time: 10:00 PM, Thursday, Coppermane's House

Coppermane laid exhausted in his bed after spending the whole evening cleaning his house. He wanted his place to be nothing below pristine for Fluttershy tomorrow. Yes, Fluttershy. Coppermane had worked up the nerve to finally ask Fluttershy out. And she said _yes_!

Coppermane couldn't believe she actually said yes. He lifted his hand to feel his cheek. The very cheek that was touched by Fluttershy's lips. It still felt warm. Her lips were so tender and soft. And the way she smiled at him after she kissed himâ€¦ it was heart-melting.

Coppermane tried to go to sleep, but he couldn't. As tired as he was, his mind was racing with every possible scenario of his date with Fluttershy tomorrow. His mind mostly conjured up bad scenarios, making him sweat. What if she didn't even want to go out with him? What if she stood him up? What if he just bored her with how lame he is?

Coppermane bit his lip. Fluttershy was special, and deserved nothing less than perfection. He wanted to give just that to her, but what if

he couldn't?

He nearly jumped out of his skin when his phone buzzed next to him.

Who could be texting him at this hour? He picked up his phone to seeâ€¦ Rarity?

Rarity to Coppermane, 10:05 PM****

Did you ask Fluttershy out?

Coppermane to Rarity, 10:08 PM****

Um, yeah I did. Is there something wrong? I'm sorry :/

Rarity to Coppermane, 10:11 PM****

Oh I'm not mad at all, darling. I think it's wonderful! Are you excited?

Coppermane to Rarity, 10:14 PM****

Of course I'm excited. I am pretty nervous though.

Rarity to Coppermane, 10:17 PM****

What would you have to be nervous about?

Coppermane to Rarity, 10:20 PM****

I'm just worried that I'll disappoint her. I want to give her a perfect night, but what if I can't do that? Will she not like me? Will she think I don't care? What if she thinks I'm boring? It's my first date, and I don't want to screw up, y'know? She's special, and I don't want to lose her.

Rarity to Coppermane, 10:27 PM****

Darling, Fluttershy does NOT think you're boring in the least. I don't think you'll disappoint her unless you really try.

Coppermane to Rarity, 10:30 PM****

How do you figure?

Rarity to Coppermane, 10:34 PM****

Think about it, if she thought you were boring, do you think she would've spent as much time with you as she has? I will say this. Tomorrow, don't act like it has to be the best night ever. One thing that will scare Fluttershy away is pressure. All she'll want to do is spend some quality time with you. Just try to have a nice time with her, and make her feel comfortable. That's the best thing you can do for her.

Coppermane to Rarity, 10:41 PM****

Pizza and a movie is harmless, right?

Rarity to Coppermane, 10:45 PM****

Absolutely! That's perfect. Don't worry, dear. Fluttershy will have a great time with you.

Coppermane to Rarity, 10:48 PM****

Thanks, Rarity. Sorry for overreacting. I just can't screw this up. If I do, I'll never forgive myself.

Rarity to Coppermane, 10:51 PM****

I understand, darling. And don't be so hard on yourself. It's so sweet that you care about her so much.

Coppermane to Rarity, 10:57 PM****

Thank you so much for your help, Rarity. I should probably go to sleep now. Have a good night :)

Rarity to Coppermane, 11:01 PM****

Anytime, darling. Good night :)

_â€¦**_**

* * *

><p>Time: 6:55 PM, Friday, Fluttershy's House, Days Until Formal: 15

Fluttershy stood in front of the mirror, fixing her hair for the umpteenth time. She glanced at the clock over and over, raising her heart rate with every look. Coppermane would be here at any minute to pick her up for their date. Yesâ€¦ _date_. Coppermane surprised her after band practice yesterday, and made her entire week by asking her out! She couldn't believe it was actually happening! She must've done her hair and makeup about ten times by now. She wanted to make sure she looked perfect. She was just going over to his house to watch a movie, so she didn't have to dress up, but she had to make sure her hair and makeup was flawless.

This week has been the most amazing week of her life. Fluttershy has had many crushes before Coppermane, but she never got too far with any of them because she was too scared to talk to any of them. But Coppermane was different. She worked up the courage to talk to him at the start of the week, and she never looked back. They had gone from total strangers to close friends over the span of just one week. She discovered just how dark his past is, and how much he's had to go through. It was so heartbreaking to learn. Why would anybody want to bully such a sweet guy? What drove those jocks to harass Coppermane every day? Who could be so cruel? Coppermane hasn't done anything to deserve this kind of treatment, right?

What Fluttershy appreciated most about this week was getting the opportunity to know Coppermane for the sweet, intelligent, and talented guy he truly is. On the surface, he seems distant, but once you got to know him, he was an amazing guy. And that amazing guy

would be here in any minute to take Fluttershy out on a date! Fluttershy brushed her hair as a smile grew on her face. She took deep breaths to try and slow her pounding heart. Her nerves were almost as wild as her excitement. Fluttershy bit her lip at the thought of disappointing Coppermane. It was her first date ever, and she couldn't mess up.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Fluttershy nearly jumped out of her skin. She looked at the clock. 7:00. It was him.

A big smile grew on Fluttershy's face as she checked herself in the mirror one last time. After adjusting the butterfly pin in her hair, she rushed to the door. She looked through the peephole. She gasped when she saw her crush standing on the other side in his signature black hoodie and sweatpants. After taking a deep breath, she opened the door.

Coppermane's face seemed to light up upon opening the door. Fluttershy felt her face heat up.

"H-Hi, Fluttershy," Coppermane said, blushing.

Fluttershy smiled, and brushed her hair behind her ear. "Hi, Coppermane."

"Y-You ready?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy nodded, "Mmmhmm!"

Coppermane smiled, and held out his hand. Fluttershy's eyes went wide. Did he want to hold her hand? She smiled, and reached her hand out to take his. Seamlessly, their fingers interlaced, and Fluttershy did her best to not squeal in excitement.

He's holding my hand!

Fluttershy felt Coppermane guide her to his car. He opened the passenger side door for her, and allowed her to get in first. He closed it for her when she was safely inside. Fluttershy watched as Coppermane walked to the driver's side, and let out a small squeal she could no longer contain. He was being such a gentleman!

Coppermane got in the car, and started it up. "We have to pick up the food on the way back. Is that alright?"

"Of course," Fluttershy said, "Umâ€¦ Coppermane?"

"Hmm?"

Fluttershy started playing with her hair. "I-It was really sweet of you to ask me out. Thank you."

Coppermane's cheeks went red. "N-No problem. The pleasure's mine," he said as he started up the car.

And with that, they were bound for Coppermane's house.

* * *

><p>Time: 7:15 PM, Friday, Coppermane's House

"Well, here we are," Coppermane said, opening the door, "You can take your shoes off if you want to. I don't mind either way."

Fluttershy decided to take them off, and took a look around. It wasn't a big house by any means, but it seemed a little empty in the main room.

"Most of my things are in my room. If it's okay with you, I figured we could go there," Coppermane said.

"That's fine," Fluttershy said.

Coppermane guided Fluttershy up to his bedroom, holding the pizza with one hand, and holding Fluttershy's hand with the other. He let go of her hand to open the door. While downstairs was a little barren, his bedroom was the opposite. His twin-size bed was situated against the wall just under the window with an end table at the top of the frame. In the corner was an electronic keyboard with some sheet music on the stand, and in another corner was a desktop computer. In the middle, across from the side of his bed was a decently sized TV with an Xbox 360 and some shelves off to the side with tons of movies and games.

"You can sit on the bed if you want. Make yourself comfortable," Coppermane said. "Do you want anything to drink?"

"Just some water, please," Fluttershy said.

"Alright," Coppermane said, taking his hoodie off, "Be right back." He threw his hoodie on the bed and proceeded downstairs.

"Okay, thanks," Fluttershy said, playing with her hair.

Fluttershy looked around, and let out another squeal. She was in Coppermane's bedroom! And she was on a date with him! She got up on his bed, and squealed again. She couldn't wait to see what Coppermane had in store for their date.

Coppermane returned with two plates and two fresh water bottles. He handed a plate and water bottle to Fluttershy, and showed her the movie he picked. It was a romantic comedy that Fluttershy's seen before. Coppermane started the movie up, and sat on the bed next to Fluttershy. They dug into the pizza as they watched the movie together.

It didn't take them long to finish the pizza, and once they were done, Coppermane moved the box off to the side. He glanced at Fluttershy, who was already looking at him. She darted her eyes away after making eye contact, and her cheeks flushed bright red. Coppermane blushed too, and felt a sudden urge to try something. Taking a deep, yet silent breath, he slowly scooted closer to Fluttershy.

Fluttershy felt the bed moving. She looked to her side, and her eyes went wide when she saw Coppermane scooting closer to her. His arm brushed up against hers, making her shudder. A big smile graced her

face. She scooted closer to him in return, and slowly leaned her head on his shoulder.

Coppermane shuddered when he felt something on his shoulder. It was soft, and a familiar aroma filled the air. It was Fluttershy's hair. She was leaning on his shoulder. Coppermane's heart beat faster. She was reciprocating. Was this really happening?

He got the urge to make another move. He slowly lifted his arm, and gently wrapped it around her, feeling her hair cascade around his skin, like a pink, silky waterfall.

Fluttershy shuddered when she felt his arm behind her. His hand wrapped around her, resting on her waist, and lightly squeezing her in his embrace. Fluttershy fought with every fiber of her being to not squeal. He was cuddling with her! She smiled as she rested her head on his shoulder again. She blushed as she placed her hand over his heart, and gave his neck a nuzzle.

Coppermane shuddered at the feeling of Fluttershy nuzzling his neck. He looked down and saw her hand over his heart. Could she feel his heart about to pound out of his chest? He leaned his head on hers, and gave her delicate waist a squeeze as he placed his free hand over hers.

Coppermane and Fluttershy completely forgot about the movie they were watching. They were too lost in each other's embrace to care about anything else.

Before they knew it, the movie was over. Seeing the credits roll snapped Coppermane out of his trance.

"Ohâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I guess the movies over," Coppermane said, releasing Fluttershy from his embrace.

"Huh?" Fluttershy said. She blinked, snapping out of her trance. "Ohâ€¦ I guess it is," she said, feeling her face heat up. She felt cold without his arms around her. "Umâ€¦ is there anything else we can watch?"

Coppermane rubbed his neck. "Well, I need to go the bathroom really quick. If you want to look through my movies and find something, be my guest."

Fluttershy smiled. "Okay. Thanks," she said. Coppermane smiled and left the room, leaving Fluttershy alone. She wasted no time in browsing through his movies. She hoped she could use another movie as an excuse to cuddle with him some more.

As she sifted through his movies, something caught her eyes. On the shelf, there was a stray piece of paper, folded in half. Fluttershy could barely make out pen indentations on the inside. Curious, Fluttershy took it, and sat back on the bed. She opened it up, and found a note on the inside. She began reading, and as she read, her face went from one of curiosity to one of horrorâ€¦

â€¦

To anyone who finds me,

I had nothing. No friends, no family, nothing. Everybody either hated me, bullied me, or neglected me. Every day was spent hoping I could survive without breaking down and crying from the pain. Even when I thought I was free, when I finally thought I was out of the well, the rope was cut, and I fell all the way back to the bottom. The well is cold, dark, and lonely. So, so lonely. I was worthlessâ€¦ patheticâ€¦ never meant for this world. Now, the mistake that was me is undone, and the world is a better placeâ€¦

â€¦

Fluttershy's hand was over her mouth as her tears dotted the note. What was this? What did she just read? Is this what was going on in Coppermane's head? Was he this depressed? This broken? This lonely?

Coppermaneâ€¦ oh my goshâ€¦

Coppermane walked back in, and his smile turned dark when he saw Fluttershy on the bed with her face buried in her hands.

"Fluttershy?" Coppermane beckoned, sitting on the bed next to her. "What happened? What's wrong?

Fluttershy looked up, and Coppermane was taken aback when he saw how red her eyes were. She tried to say something, but all she could muster was a whimper before she returned to crying.

"Fluttershy?" Coppermane cooed.

Fluttershy's breathing was shaky. She offered the note to Coppermane in her trembling hand.

"C-Coppermaneâ€¦ wh-what is this?" Fluttershy asked in a shaky voice.

"Huh?" Coppermane asked, accepting the note from her. It was dotted with her tears. Coppermane's eyes went wide when he realized what she found.

"Iâ€¦ I found it on the shelf," Fluttershy said. She placed her hand on her knee. "Coppermaneâ€¦ areâ€¦ are going toâ€¦ k-kill yourself?"

Coppermane's heart pounded. He must've overlooked this when he was cleaning. He felt so horrified that she discovered thisâ€¦

"Coppermane?" Fluttershy cooed, squeezing his knee. "Tell me, please. Are you havingâ€¦ s-suicidal thoughts?"

Coppermane looked into Fluttershy's bloodshot eyes. Her face was red and puffy from her tears. Her breathing was shaky, and she squeezed his knee hard. His mind went haywire.

"Iâ€¦ Iâ€¦ umâ€¦" Coppermane stammered.

Fluttershy gasped, and pulled Coppermane into a big embrace. She held him tight in her arms, crying on his shoulder.

"Coppermane, don't do it. Don't kill yourself. You're not worthless. You're not pathetic. You have friends now. We care about you. _I_ care about you. Don't do it. Please. Iâ€¦ I can't lose youâ€¦ I just can'tâ€¦"

Coppermane was shocked at her outburst. He held her tight, rubbing her back and brushing her hair to comfort her. Her nails dug into his skin, holding onto him tight. Her body trembled in his arms as her tears soaked his shoulder. He felt tears building up behind his own eyes. Hearing Fluttershy cryâ€¦ it was heart-wrenching.

"Fluttershyâ€¦ shhâ€¦ it's okayâ€¦ it's okayâ€¦ don't cryâ€¦" Coppermane cooed. "I'm not going to kill myself."

Fluttershy's grip on him relaxed, and she pulled away in his embrace. She whimpered as she dried her tears.

"You'reâ€¦ You're not?" Fluttershy beckoned.

Coppermane bit his lip. "Wellâ€¦ not anymoreâ€¦"

"A-Anymore?" Fluttershy asked, "Wh-What do you mean?"

Coppermane pursed his lips, and sighed. He looked down, almost shedding a tear himself.

"Coppermane?" Fluttershy cooed, placing her hands on his shoulders.

Coppermane sighed, "Fluttershyâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I've told you about my past right?"

Fluttershy sniffled and nodded. "Mmmhmm."

"Wellâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I haven't told you everything," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy's eyes widened, "What?"

Coppermane sighed. "There are some things that you don't know about me. I've been holding back becauseâ€¦ wellâ€¦ I-I didn't want to scare you awayâ€¦"

"What would scare me?" Fluttershy said, "You can tell me, Coppermane."

Coppermane bit his lip, "Iâ€¦ I don't knowâ€¦"

"Coppermane, please," Fluttershy beckoned. She reached up and cupped his face. Coppermane shuddered at the feeling. Her beautiful eyes were filled with compassion. It was the same look that made him feel safe and secure. The look that comforted him unlike anything else could. "I promise, no matter what you say, I'll still be here. If you're having suicidal thoughts, I want to help you. I'm your friend, Coppermane. Nothing you say will scare me away."

Coppermane bit his lip. Part of him still didn't want to tell her, out of fear of losing her. At the same time, he felt almost compelled

to tell her. If she was this concerned about his safety, she deserved to know. If he had to choose one person to open up to, it would be her. Not just because he had a crush on her, but because he was truly closest to her. He trusted her more than anybody.

Coppermane looked her dead in the eye. "If I'm going to tell you, you need to promise me something."

"Of course," Fluttershy said.

"Everything I'm about to say stays between us, okay?" Coppermane said. "Promise me?"

Fluttershy smiled, "I promise."

Coppermane smiled, and felt her stroke his cheek. He took a moment to savor the feeling as he gazed into her beautiful teal eyes. But it didn't last long before she backed away, sitting across from him, and waiting for what he had to say. Coppermane sighed, and sat across from Fluttershy.

"I've been bullied my whole life. For as long as I can remember, there was always someone I feared. I've been the school loser ever since I started attending school. They always told me that if I went to the principal or a teacher about what they did to me, they would beat me until I needed an ambulance. I was so scared. I lived every day in fear. No friendsâ€¦ no familyâ€¦ nobody. I was aloneâ€¦"

"That's awful," Fluttershy said.

"I didn't know what to do. I just kindaâ€¦ took it, y'know? What else could I do?" Coppermane said. "Butâ€¦ everyone has their limitsâ€¦"

Coppermane paused for a moment, playing with his hands.

"It's okay," Fluttershy said. "I'm not going anywhere."

Coppermane looked up, and was met with Fluttershy's beautiful smile. Just seeing that gorgeous smile made him feel safe.

"I never told you why I transferred to CHS, did I?"

Fluttershy's smile faded. "Noâ€¦ no you haven't."

Coppermane bit his lip. "Wellâ€¦ I was walking out of school one dayâ€¦"

* * *

><p>Coppermane hurried with his books and binders in his arms. Maybe he could make it out of school beforeâ€¦

Suddenly, Coppermane was sent tumbling to the ground. His books and binders escaped his arms, scattering across the hallway floor. He landed on the floor, and his heavy backpack landed on top of him, making the impact harder. As Coppermane struggled to get up, he heard cackling behind him.

"Ha! I barely bumped you! How can anyone be so wimpy?"

"I think I hear him crying!" one of them called out. "Hey everyone! Step right up! Marvel at the crying piece of shit on the school floor!"

_Coppermane fought his tears back as he heard more laughter around him. More and more cackling, making it harder and harder to hold the tsunami of tears
back._

"Nerd!"

"Loser!"

"Creep!"

"Crybaby!"

Every single one of their words cut through Coppermane's heart like a knife. He looked up, and saw his fellow classmates pointing and laughing at him. Laughing at his painâ€¦

His tears could no longer be contained. He felt a warm drop run down his face, followed by many others. His breathing turned shaky, and his body trembled.

"Ha! What a loser!"

"Such a stupid crybaby!"

"How pathetic!"

Amidst the humiliation, Coppermane heard footsteps approach him. A shadow was cast over him. He looked up to see one of the bullies staring him down as everyone continued to laugh at him.

"You gonna cry about it, huh? You gonna cry? You're pathetic. The most pathetic excuse for a human being I've ever seen."

As Coppermane looked into his eyes, he felt something stir within him. His breathing became harder, and his eyebrows began to furl. He clenched his teeth as he balled his fist.

With a swift move, he delivered a hard punch to the bully's stomach.

The laughter in the hall went dead silent. The only sound was the coughing of the bully as he held his stomach in pain. Coppermane felt his anger peak, clouding his vision and mind in a haze of rage. He grabbed the bully by the jacket collar, and threw him against the lockers. Before the bully had time to recover, Coppermane delivered another blow to his stomach. He punched him in the cheek, sending him sprawling to the ground. The bully had no time to react before Coppermane began punching him relentlessly in the face, completely ignoring the spots of blood.

"How does it feel, huh?! How does it feel to be jumped?! HOW DOES IT FEEL?!" Coppermane screamed as he continued his assault.

The other students tried to restrain Coppermane, but he just kicked them away, and continued his assault on the bully.

"HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?!" Coppermane shouted at the top of his lungs, "THIS IS WHAT YOU PUT ME THROUGH EVERY FUCKING DAY!"

It took eight students to finally pull Coppermane away from the bully. Coppermane continued to kick and scream like a child as the students tried to restrain him.

Eventually, he began to slowly calm down. His breathing softened, and his fists relaxed. He looked around to see all the other students staring at him in total horror. He looked at the bully on the ground, laying completely unconscious. Blood ran down his face, and pooled up on the ground around him. Coppermane looked down at his hands, and they were covered in blood. His breathing turned shaky as panic surfaced.

What has he done?

Without even thinking, Coppermane ran. He ran out of the school as fast as he could.

* * *

><p>"Iâ€¦ I never meant to hurt anyoneâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I just want it to end. I was done. I couldn't take it anymore. I just wanted it to stop!" Coppermane said, raising his voice at the end. Tears were threatening to escape from his eyes, but he held them back. For Fluttershyâ€¦ he held his tears back.<p>

Fluttershy was speechless. She studied Coppermane's face. He held his eyes closed and clenched his fists. He looked so painedâ€¦

Fluttershy reached out and touched his clenched fist, lightly massaging it.

"You don't have to continue if you don't want to," Fluttershy said.

"No. Iâ€¦ I'm fineâ€¦" Coppermane said. He was in too deep to stop now. "Soâ€¦ I ended up getting expelled for the whole thing. That's why I changed schools. All because I lashed out like a total psychopath. Goshâ€¦ I can still see their facesâ€¦" Coppermane said, massaging his forehead with his hand. "I thought I could escape it all when I came to CHS. I thought I might have a chance to not be a total loser. But then, Hoops and Score came along. In the blink of an eye, I was the school loser again. I couldn't escape it. It was starting all over again, and the only way out I sawâ€¦ was death."

Fluttershy felt like she was going to cry. Coppermane looked so pained. So haunted. So scared.

"Coppermane, there's always hope for the future," Fluttershy said.

"Fluttershy," Coppermane said, looking her dead in the eye, "Put yourself in my shoes for a moment. You've spent your entire life

alone. You've never had a single friend. No matter how hard you try, everyone hates you. Every day, you wait in fear, wondering how you're going to be bullied today. Every night, you cry yourself to sleep because you feel so hated and pathetic. And you're all alone. You have nobody to reach out to. Nobody to talk to. Nobody to tell you everything's going to be okay. Nobody to help you. You're all on your own. And just when you think you've escaped, it all starts over. In an instant, you're right back where you started. Having nothing, and being nothing. How would you feel, Fluttershy? Do you know what it feels like to be alone for so long?"

Fluttershy bit her lip. She looked into Coppermane's brown eyes, but they weren't warm. Instead, they were filled with one thing. Angst. Through his eyes, the world is cold and dark. Fluttershy could finally see how broken and scarred he truly was. She looked into his eyes, and saw every scar. Every scar that left him so damaged inside.

But Fluttershy knew Coppermane. He wasn't a bad person. He was just scared. He deserved happiness, just like everyone else.

Fluttershy placed her hand on his knee. "Coppermane, there's always hope for the future. No matter how dark everything may seem, the future is still bright."

Coppermane looked into Fluttershy's beautiful eyes, and saw something he's never seen before. Sympathy. Sympathy for _him_. Concern for his feelings, and a willingness to help him.

"Even after all that, you would still have hope?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy smiled. "There's always hope. And Coppermaneâ€¦ you're not alone anymore," she said, squeezing his knee. "You have friends now. Twilight Sparkle, Rarity, Pinkie Pie, Sunset Shimmer, Rainbow Dash, Applejack, Flash Sentry; they're all here for you. Andâ€¦ Coppermaneâ€¦" She took his hand, interlacing their fingers together. "_I'm_ here for you. I'll always be here for you. What you went through was awful, and nobody deserves that. You're a wonderful guy, and I care about you. Your feelings matter to me, Coppermane. You're not alone anymore. I'll always be here for you, no matter what."

Coppermane looked down at his hand, weaved together with hers. Her hand was so small and delicateâ€¦

"Coppermane," Fluttershy said, squeezing his hand. "I wish you could see yourself through _my_ eyes, because then you would see how amazing you are."

Coppermane's eyes widened, and his heart melted. He looked into her eyes, and saw nothing but warmth.

"Iâ€¦ I just told you everything. Andâ€¦ you're still here," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy smiled, and lunged forward to give Coppermane a big hug.

"Of course I am," Fluttershy said, squeezing him in her

arms.

Coppermane was feeling her embrace againâ€¦ and it's never felt so warm. He wrapped his arms around her, and felt her relax in his embrace, giving him another nuzzle. He began weaving her silky hair through his fingers, earning another nuzzle in return.

"Coppermane?" Fluttershy asked.

"Hmm?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy pulled away and looked into his eyes. "Umâ€¦ what made you change your mind?"

"What do you mean?"

"A-About death. Wh-What made you change your mind?"

Coppermane blushed, and did something bold. He lifted his hand, and cupped Fluttershy's face. Her eyes seemed to light up.

"You."

Fluttershy gasped. "Wh-What?"

"_You_ saved me, Fluttershy."

Fluttershy felt her face heat up. "R-Really?"

"The day we metâ€¦ that was going to be my last day. But then you came along andâ€¦ for the first time everâ€¦ I feltâ€¦"

Coppermane paused when he realized her hands have been on his shoulders the whole time. His hand was cupping her face, and the other was on her waist.

Time seemed to stop as Coppermane gazed into Fluttershy's eyes. His gaze found its way down to her lips. They were so close to hisâ€¦ They looked so sweetâ€¦

Fluttershy could feel his breath on her lips, electifying her heart, making it pound against her chest. Her lips began trembling as she stared into his warm, brown eyes.

They stared into each other's eyes until their minds started working on their own. Their faces drew closer together. The sensation of each other's breath on their lips intensified more and more as they got closer and closer. Their lips were barely touching when they paused. Their lips trembled with desire. Fluttershy slowly offered a smile. Coppermane smiled back, and in moments, their lips touched.

Coppermane felt his heart flare as his lips met Fluttershy's for the first time. His nervousness was replaced immediately with total bliss. She moaned into his mouth as she massaged his back. He wrapped his arms around her waist and pulled her closer. He began massaging her waist, making her moan into his mouth. Her lips caressed his so delicately, perfectly molding with his. In that moment, nothing else mattered but Fluttershy's amazing lips. So softâ€¦ so warmâ€¦ so

sweetâ€¦ so _perfect_â€¦ just like herâ€¦

Fluttershy fell into total euphoria. If Coppermane wasn't holding her, she would've melted onto the bed. Her nerves were quelled, and the world around her seemed to disappear as she became lost in his lips. A moan escaped her mouth as his lips caressed hers. She shivered in pleasure as he started brushing her hair and caressing her waist. She massaged his back in return, causing him to moan into her mouth. He squeezed her even tighter. Coppermane was actually _kissing_ her! His lips were so tender and sweet, caressing hers so perfectlyâ€¦

Coppermane laid back on the bed, bringing Fluttershy with him. Her hair cascaded around his head, filling the air with the sweet scent of roses and strawberries. He ran his fingers through her silky hair, making her moan in to his mouth.

Fluttershy melted in Coppermane's arms as she laid on top of him. Passion emanated from his lips, exciting her own. Waves of pleasure rippled through her body with every movement of his lips, and with every stroke of her hair. Fluttershy never thought she could feel this good.

Their lips remained locked together as they savored each other's taste. It was unlike anything they've ever felt before.

Is this what love felt like?

Finally, after what felt like an eternity, when their need to breathe outweighed their lustful ecstasy, they pulled away. They were left panting for air as they gazed into each other's lustful eyes. Lust was soon replaced by shock and awe. Did they justâ€¦?

They did. Their very first kiss. Their cheeks flushed bright red as total wonder filled their eyes.

Coppermane smiled and reached up to caress Fluttershy's face. She moaned and leaned into his hand as a big smile graced her face.

"Fluttershy, when I first met you, for the first time ever, I felt worth it," Coppermane said, continuing to stroke Fluttershy's cheek. "Nobody has ever helped me like that before. Nobody's ever given me a chance before."

Fluttershy smiled and lifted her hand to touch his. "Everyone deserves a chance, Coppermane."

Coppermane couldn't resist. He wanted to feel her lips again so badly. He lifted head to kiss her.

Fluttershy melted in his arms upon feeling his tender lips again. Their lips remained locked as Coppermane moved Fluttershy to lay beside him. He pulled her closer in his arms as he began brushing her hair. She wrapped her arms around his waist, never letting go.

Coppermane pulled away, and was met with Fluttershy's smiling face. Her smile was so beautiful and bright. He saw tears running down her face, and slowly brought his hand up to dry them. He felt her

shudder, and his nerves caused him to pull his hand away. He heard a small, saddened whimper from her when he withdrew his hand.

"S-Sorry. Th-this is all so new to me," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy giggled, and gave him another kiss on the lips. She snuggled up with him, nuzzling his chest.

"We can learn together," Fluttershy said.

Coppermane's heart melted. "Togetherâ€¦"

"Togetherâ€¦" Fluttershy cooed, looking up at Coppermane.

Her Coppermaneâ€¦

Coppermane pulled Fluttershy into another tender kiss, making her melt yet again. She pulled him closer in her arms. She never thought kissing him would feel so amazing.

Coppermane felt something wet on his face. He pulled away, and saw tears in Fluttershy's eyes.

"Why are you crying?" Coppermane whispered.

Fluttershy smiled as she gazed into his big brown eyes.

"Iâ€¦ I'm just so happyâ€¦" Fluttershy cooed.

Coppermane's heart melted. She was happyâ€¦ because of _him_. Her beautiful eyes twinkled as she looked at him. He gave her delicate kisses on the cheek to dry her tears.

Fluttershy giggled each time Coppermane kissed her cheek. It was just too cute. And so lovingâ€¦

Coppermane kissed her on the lips again once her tears were dry. He never thought kissing her would feel so amazing. Her lips were sweeter than candyâ€¦

They pulled away, and Fluttershy snuggled up with her new boyfriend, nuzzling his chest. She felt so warm and cozy in his armsâ€¦ and so safe in his embraceâ€¦

Coppermane squeezed Fluttershy in his arms.

His Fluttershyâ€¦

Holding her in his arms felt amazing. She was so warm and delicate. He started brushing her hair, and gave her a kiss on the forehead. She nuzzled him in return, making his heart melt. She looked absolutely adorable right now, resting her head on his chest.

"Fluttershy?" Coppermane asked.

"Hmm?" Fluttershy asked, looking up at her new boyfriend.

"Do youâ€¦ umâ€¦ do you want toâ€¦ s-spend the night?"

"Yes," Fluttershy answered immediately, "Iâ€¦ I'd love to." She blushed at how quickly she answered, but it earned her one of Coppermane's smiles nevertheless.

Coppermane gave Fluttershy a peck before she snuggled up with him, nuzzling his chest. Coppermane squeezed her warm, delicate body in his arms to keep her safe as she slept.

"Sweet dreams, Fluttershy," Coppermane said, kissing Fluttershy on the forehead.

Fluttershy's heart danced. She nuzzled his chest, "Good night, Coppermane." Within minutes, Fluttershy allowed herself to drift off in her handsome boyfriends's arms.

Coppermane soon followed, allowing himself to be taken by the clutches of sleep, holding his sweet, beautiful girlfriend in his arms.

* * *

><p>Sorry if this felt a little rushed. It's tomorrow as I'm writing this, and I'm a little tired.

Before I go, I know you people are anxious for the sequel, but that's on hold for now. Final exams are coming up in a couple weeks, and I have tests next week as well. That's where my focus needs to be. I can't even think about writing brand new content until finals are over. This is my project for now.

All reviews are **_greatly appreciated**_**, so don't forget to leave one letting me know what you think.**

Peace out.

To see a picture of my OC, there's a link on my profile.

7. Uncharted Territory

Welcome! Sorry for this rewrite taking so long. Life got in the way. Anyways, I'm here now, and let's get this show on the road. I don't own any of the MLP FiM characters, but I DO own Coppermane, and the plot. Enjoy!

* * *

><p>Loveliest of Trees<p>

Ch.7: Uncharted Territory

Time: 2:30 AM, **Saturday**, Coppermane's House, Days Until Formal: 14

Coppermane woke up to the sound of rainfall outside his window. Flashes of lightning illuminated the room, followed by earth-shaking thunder. The air around him smelled so sweet, and he could feel something breathing on top of him. He rubbed the sleep out of his eyes, and looked down to behold the most adorable sight in the

world.

There, resting her head on his chest, sleeping soundly, was Fluttershy.

She was still here. Everything that happened yesterday really happened. He really cuddled with her. He really opened up to her. He really had his very first kissâ€¦ with _her_.

She wasâ€¦ his _girlfriend_ nowâ€¦

Coppermane's heart melted as he watched Fluttershy sleep. _His_ Fluttershy. She was all his. He did it. He wrapped his arms around her, giving her a light squeeze. Her delicate body provided all the warmth he needed. She looked so cute resting on his chest. He gently brushed her hair, weaving the silky strands through his fingers. He kissed her forehead before resting his head back on his pillow. His eyelids grew heavier as he felt himself starting to drift off again.

Another flash of lightning illuminated the room, followed by a heavy wave of thunder. The peak of the thunder hit with a loud boom, startling Fluttershy, and waking her up with a gasp.

Fluttershy grabbed onto the nearest thing, and held it tight. Her body trembled, and her breath was short from the sudden adrenaline rush. She felt something squeeze her, startling her more. She looked up, and sawâ€¦

"C-Coppermane?" Fluttershy cooed.

"Hey," Coppermane murmured with a smile.

Another flash of lightning and a boom of thunder struck, making Fluttershy jump and squeak in surprise. She felt Coppermane squeeze her.

"It's okay," he said, kissing her forehead, "I've got you."

Fluttershy shivered at the feeling of his lips on her forehead. Thunderstorms usually scared her, but when another loud wave of thunder hit, she didn't jump. All of a sudden, she wasn't scared anymoreâ€¦ because Coppermane was here. _Her_ Coppermane was here. He held her close in his arms, and suddenly, there wasn't anything to be afraid of anymore. In Coppermane's arms, she was safe. She teared up and rested her head back on his warm chest. She felt his fingers weaving through her hair again, making her shudder in bliss.

Fluttershy couldn't believe she was still here with Coppermane. It really happened. They were together now. He was all hers. He was her _boyfriend_. A tear escaped her eye as she nuzzled his chest, earning her a kiss on the forehead. Slowly, she allowed herself to drift off, and let the rise and fall of his chest, the warmth of his embrace, and the way he brushed her hair to lull her back to sleep once more.

Coppermane soon followed, allowing Fluttershy's warmth and the pitter-patter of the rain to ease his mind back to a deep slumber.

* * *

><p>Time: 11:00 AM, Sunday, The Sweet Shoppe, Days Until Formal: 13_

"And thenâ€¦ he kissed me," Fluttershy said, smiling giddily.

"FLUTTERSHY!" Rarity exclaimed, pulling her into a huge hug, "Oh, that's wonderful! Congratulations, darling!"

Rarity let out a big squeal as she squeezed her friend. Fluttershy giggled at how happy Rarity was.

Rarity released Fluttershy, and had a huge, giddy smile on her face.

"What else happened?!" Rarity beckoned, barely able to sit still.

Fluttershy giggled, and started playing with her hair. "Heâ€¦ he cuddled with meâ€¦ he brushed my hairâ€¦ he told me why he liked meâ€¦ he held me in his armsâ€¦ heâ€¦ he kissed me again and again andâ€¦ he was just wonderful! So lovingâ€¦ so sweetâ€¦ so affectionateâ€¦ andâ€¦" She let out a loud, girly squeal. "Oh, everything was so amazing!"

Rarity giggled. She's never seen Fluttershy so happy and excited before.

"I'm so happy for you, darling!" Rarity said. "Are you doing anything with him later?"

Fluttershy's smile quickly regressed to a more somber expression.

"Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ we'reâ€¦ we're not doing anything today," Fluttershy said, playing with her hair.

"What? Why not?" Rarity asked.

"I told him I was spending the day with my friends," Fluttershy said. "We were going to show Twilight around the mall, right?"

"Well yes, but dear, I'm sure the girls wouldn't mind at all if you wanted to spend time with Coppermane. I'm sure he'd love to see you."

Fluttershy bit her lip. "He _did_ look sad when I told himâ€¦"

"Oh! You could invite him to come with us!" Rarity said.

Fluttershy's face lit up. "Really? Are you sure the others wouldn't mind?"

"I think they would love it! Besides, now that he's your boyfriend, it would be healthy for him to get acquainted with all your best friends, would it not? I know _I_ would love to get to know you're

new boyfriend."

Fluttershy blushed. She pondered for a moment. Rarity was right. If she was embarking on a relationship with Coppermane, it would be good for him to get decently acquainted with all her best friends.

Rarity suddenly gasped. "Oh! I forgot to tell you! Flash and Twilight are dating!"

"What?!" Fluttershy exclaimed.

"Twilight told me everything! Flash asked her out on Friday," Rarity said, squealing. "I'm so happy for them!"

"That's wonderful!" Fluttershy said.

"I know!" Rarity said. She gave Fluttershy a huge smile. "It's so wonderful! All my friends are falling in love!" she said, making Fluttershy blush. "He'll be joining us at the mall today, and Coppermane should come too!"

Suddenly, Fluttershy's phone started ringing, making her jump. She looked at the screen and smiled when she saw Coppermane's name.

Rarity gasped when she looked at Fluttershy's phone. "Why don't you ask him?"

Fluttershy nodded, and quickly answered his call.

"Hello?"

"Hey, Fluttershy," Coppermane said.

"Hi, Coppermane," Fluttershy said with a big smile on her face. She began playing with her hair.

"Am I interrupting anything?" Coppermane asked.

"No, not at all," Fluttershy said. "How are you today?"

"Better now that I'm talking to you," Coppermane said, making Fluttershy blush. "Oh gosh, that was so corny. I'm sorry."

"Aww, don't be sorry. It's sweet," Fluttershy said, blushing. "Um, are you doing anything today, Coppermane?"

"I don't think I have anything going on," Coppermane said. "Why?"

Fluttershy blushed. "I was wondering if you wanted to join me at the mall today with everyone else. We were going to go over there in a little while."

"The mall?" Coppermane said. "I thought that's why we couldn't hang out today."

"Well, yes, butâ€¦ I miss you," Fluttershy said, feeling her face heat up as she played with her hair.

Coppermane chuckled. "Awwâ€¦ I-I miss you too," he said, making Fluttershy blush even more. "Who else would be going?"

"Just Rarity, Twilight, Sunset, and Flash," Fluttershy said. "Soâ€¦ would you like to go? I meanâ€¦ you don't have to if you don't want toâ€¦"

"If it means I can hang out with you, then of course. I'd love to go," Coppermane said.

"Really? Yay!" Fluttershy squeaked.

"I'll meet you girls there. See you soon," Coppermane said.

"I can't wait! Goodbye, Coppermane," Fluttershy said before hanging up. She turned to Rarity. "He said yes!"

"Wonderful!" Rarity said. "Oh, look at the time! We should be going."

And with that, Rarity and Fluttershy left the Sweet Shoppe to meet up with everyone. Fluttershy couldn't wait to see her boyfriend again!

Boyfriendâ€¦ boyfriendâ€¦ it felt so weird to think about. She had a _boyfriend_ now. It was weird, yet wonderful at the same time. Coppermane was her _boyfriend_, and she could hardly wait to see him!

* * *

><p>Time: 1:00 PM, Sunday, Canterlot Mall

Coppermane waited outside the mall entrance, waiting for his friends and girlfriend.

His first date with Fluttershy was everything he hoped it would be and more. He never thought they would have such an amazing time together, let alone start a relationship. He could remember his first kiss so vividly. He never thought his first kiss would feel so amazing.

This was foreign territory for Coppermane, but there wasn't anyone else in the world he would rather be going on this journey with than Fluttershy.

Ahâ€¦ Fluttershyâ€¦

Coppermane couldn't stop thinking about her. She was just so amazing. So sweetâ€¦ so kindâ€¦ so_pretty_. Her gorgeous teal eyesâ€¦ her long, flowing pink hairâ€¦ her perfectly curvy figureâ€¦ that sweet, beautiful smile that could light up an entire cityâ€¦ it was like he could already see her walking up to him.

"Hi, Coppermane."

Coppermane blinked, snapping out of his trance. Fluttershy was standing right in front of him, and around her was Sunset, Rarity, Twilight, and Flash. She was blushing majorly with a big smile on her face.

Was he staring the whole time he was thinking about her?

"H-Hey, Fluttershy," Coppermane said.

"Thank you for coming," Fluttershy said.

"No problem," Coppermane said.

"Are you ready?" Fluttershy asked, taking his hand.

"Y-Yep. Sure am," Coppermane said. He heard giggling around him as he interlaced fingers with her.

"We're so happy for you two!" Rarity said.

Sunset whispered in Fluttershy's ear, "I knew you could do it."

Sunset gave Fluttershy a wink as she felt her face heat up.

Flash came up and pat Coppermane on the shoulder. "Congrats, man."

Coppermane smiled, and looked down to see Flash holding Twilight's hand.

"You too," Coppermane said, earning a wink from Flash.

And with that, the group ventured into the mall.

* * *

><p>Coppermane usually hated malls. Seeing everyone around him with their friends and significant others made him feel uncomfortable and insecure. It was just another reminder of how stupid his life was.<p>

This time was different. For once, Coppermane was walking around in public, and he wasn't alone. He had friends. Sunset, Rarity, Twilight, Flash, and most of all, Fluttershy. Talking to his friends was fun, but he couldn't help but be distracted by the gorgeous beauty who walked next to him. It was an amazing feeling to hold her hand. It was like putting his mark on her, and showing everyone who walked by that the most adorable girl in the world was _his_.

There was just one problem. He still wasn't happy. The whole time, he held his free arm close, and kept his shoulders up and tight. His heart was pounding, and his eyes darted around, unwittingly looking at anything that passed by, in between glances at Fluttershy. There was just a lot on his mind, and he felt stiffâ€¦

"Coppermane?" Fluttershy said, squeezing his hand.

"Hmm?" Coppermane asked. He didn't make eye contact with her, though.

Fluttershy stopped walking, and stood in front of Coppermane. She placed her hands on his shoulders, massaging them.

"You feel tense, and you look sweaty. Is everything okay?" Fluttershy asked.

Coppermane tried to offer a reassuring smile. "Umâ€¦ y-yeahâ€¦ wh-why wouldn't I be?" Fluttershy didn't look convinced.

Sunset walked up behind Fluttershy. "We alright over here?"

Flash walked up next to Coppermane. "You okay, man?"

Coppermane bit his lip. "Wellâ€¦ umâ€¦"

He looked down at the ground. Greatâ€¦ now he was worrying everyoneâ€¦ including Fluttershy.

"Coppermane?" Fluttershy said, bringing his chin up to meet her eyes. "Are you okay?"

Coppermane sighed. "Umâ€¦ no I'm not." Fluttershy was about to say something, but Coppermane cut her off. "Hey, Flash, can I talk to you about something? _Alone_?"

"Ohâ€¦ umâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I guess it's okay," Flash stammered. "What did you want to talk about?"

"Can we just discuss this in private please?" Coppermane snapped, making everyone flinch. "Umâ€¦ s-sorryâ€¦"

"No, it's fine," Flash said. "Do you girls mind?"

"Wellâ€¦ I guess it's fine," Rarity said. "We could have Twilight try on some clothes!"

"Alright," Flash said. He pulled Twilight aside. "I guess Coppermane needs me."

"Don't worry," Twilight said. "He does look troubled about something."

"I'll text one of you when everything's okay," Flash said, giving Twilight a peck, making her blush. He walked over to Coppermane, standing with a very worried-looking Fluttershy.

"Coppermane, is there anything I can do to help you?" Fluttershy asked, rubbing his shoulders.

"Fluttershy, I'm sorry, justâ€¦ please understand," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy squeezed his shoulders. "I'm just worried about you."

"I'll be okay, Fluttershy. I just need to talk some things out," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy whimpered. "O-Okay. Butâ€¦ remember that I'm always here for you," she said, taking his hand. She lifted her head to give him a tender kiss.

"C'mon, girls. Let's leave the boys to it," Sunset said.

Coppermane watched as the girls walked away, but Fluttershy kept holding his hand. While she walked away, she kept her gaze fixated on him as her hand slowly slipped out of his grasp. Their hands separated, and Fluttershy's gaze lingered on him before she turned around to catch up with everyone else. Her eyes were shiny withâ€¦ tears? It felt like Coppermane just got punched in the gut.

"Okay, Coppermane," Flash said, "What the hell?"

"I'm sorry, Flash," Coppermane said. "I've just been wracking my brain today, and I need to talk to someone."

Flash sighed and walked over to a nearby wall bench.

"Alright, what's up?" he asked, sitting down.

Coppermane sat down next to Flash, and let out a long, drawn-out sigh.

"Flash, I don't know if I'm going to be good enough," Coppermane said.

"Good enough for what?" Flash asked.

"Forâ€¦ for Fluttershy," Coppermane said.

"Fluttershy?" Flash asked.

"Yeahâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I'm just worried that I won't be good enough for her."

"What makes you think that? She seems happy."

"I guessâ€¦" Coppermane said. "I just don't want to disappoint her as a boyfriend. I want to treat her like a queen, but what if I can't do that? What if I can't give her the things she deserves? Am I worthy of a girl as special as her? She deserves nothing but the best, but what if I can't give her that? What ifâ€¦? It's justâ€¦ How do Iâ€¦?" Coppermane buried his face in his hands. "I'm sorry. I'm just ruining the day, aren't I?"

"No you're not," Flash said.

"Flash, don't pretend like you're not annoyed at me. Everyone was. Evenâ€¦" Coppermane's eyes went wide, and his heart dropped. "Oh noâ€¦"

"Huh?" Flash said.

"Fluttershy. She was trying to help me. She wanted to be there for me, and I completely shot her down," Coppermane said as his face filled with dread. "Oh my gosh, I'm the worst boyfriend ever." He buried his face in his palms again.

Flash watched as his friend broke down in front of him. Was he _this_ insecure about his relationship? It was surprising to see the sheer lack of self-esteem in front of him.

Flash pat Coppermane on the back. "Coppermane, lemme tell you

something," he said. Coppermane looked up at him with bloodshot eyes. Was he crying? Flash sighed. "Listen, I know it can be scary, but the uncertainty is what makes a new relationship interesting, and even fun. Every relationship is different, and you never know what's going to happen next. It's always an adventure, but the key is finding the right person to take with you on that adventure."

Coppermane didn't look moved. He stared down at the ground.

Flash sighed, and pat him on the back. "But if you keep worrying about these kinds of things, then you won't get anywhere with Fluttershy. Do you appreciate her?"

"Of course I do," Coppermane said.

"Then you have to show her that. Let her help you out when she offers it. She cares about you, and wants to be there for you. Yes, you screwed up, but you can't dwell on it. You're going to make mistakes, and she will too. Nobody's perfect. The best thing you can do is learn from them and move on, otherwise you won't get anywhere with her."

Coppermane played with his hands as he glanced in the direction the girls left in. He could still see Fluttershy's worried face. He wanted to punch himself. Why was he such a jerk?

"Well, how do I make up for being an asshole just now?" Coppermane asked.

"You know what she'd really like?" Flash said. "If you got her something."

Coppermane managed a small smile. The thought of buying things for Fluttershy made him feel a little better.

Flash stood up. "Why don't we look around for a bit? I'm sure we'll find something."

Coppermane sighed, and stood up. "I just hope I didn't hurt her too much."

"Everything will be fine," Flash said. "Fluttershy's very forgiving. Don't worry."

"I hope you're right, Flash."

* * *

><p>Time: 4:05, Sunday, Canterlot Mall (Food Court)

After Rarity bought everyone some clothes, they stopped at the food court to get something to eat and relax for a moment.

Fluttershy couldn't relax, though. She couldn't stop thinking about Coppermane and how tense he lookedâ€¦

"Fluttershy?" Twilight asked.

"Huh?"

"Are you okay, darling?" Rarity asked.

"You look troubled about something," Sunset said.

Fluttershy played with her hair, "Umâ€¦ it's nothingâ€¦"

"Fluttershy," Rarity said, "It's obviously something, darling. What's on your mind?"

"Please, Fluttershy?" Twilight beckoned. "You can tell us anything."

Fluttershy twirled her hair. "Iâ€¦ I just hope Coppermane's okay."

"He _did_ seem worried about something," Twilight said.

"I'm sure he'll be fine after talking with Flash," Rarity said.

Fluttershy whimpered. "It's justâ€¦ I couldn't help him. I didn't know what to do. He wouldn't talk to me. Was I doing something wrong? Why didn't he want me to help? Did he not want to come with me today? Oh noâ€¦ he's unhappy and it's _my_ fault!"

"Fluttershy, stop," Sunset said. "Don't be like that."

Fluttershy sighed and looked down. "Sorryâ€¦ this is all just so new to meâ€¦"

"We know," Sunset said, giving Fluttershy a hug, "Don't be sorry."

"This is new for Coppermane as well, darling," Rarity said.

"I just wish I knew how to make him feel better," Fluttershy said.

Sunset smiled. "Fluttershy, sometimes you just need to give your boyfriend some space. It doesn't mean that he doesn't want to be with you, it just means he might need to talk things out with some other friends. There's nothing wrong with that. Like Rarity said, this is new for him as well, so he's probably trying to figure some things out too. Give him some time, and he'll come around. Y'know, he's had a crush on you since last Monday."

"Really?" Fluttershy cooed. "How do you know?"

"Well, you remember sitting with him at lunch for the first time, right?" Sunset said.

Fluttershy smiled and twirled her hair at the memory.

"Of course I do."

"Well, after you left, he pulled me aside," Sunset said, "And you know what he asked me?"

"What?" Fluttershy beckoned.

"He asked me if you had a boyfriend," Sunset said with a smile.

"Oh, how cute!" Rarity said.

Fluttershy blushed. "He really asked that?"

Sunset nodded. "Mmmhmm! I wish you could've seen how his face lit up when I told him you were single. It was so cute!"

"Heâ€¦ he really did that?" Fluttershy said.

"Yup!" Sunset said. "I didn't tell you because I wanted you to figure it out for yourself. But he's liked you for a while."

"Here, darling," Rarity said, taking her phone out. She handed it to Fluttershy. "Why don't you take a look at that?"

Fluttershy looked at Rarity's phone. It was a series of text messages between Rarity and Coppermane.

"Forgive me for being a little inquisitive, but I was so excited when you told me he asked you out, I simply _had_ to ask him how he felt," Rarity said. "I think you might like some of the things he said about you."

Fluttershy continued to look at the messages, and couldn't help but smile.

"Heâ€¦ he thinks I'm special?" Fluttershy asked, playing with her hair.

"Indeed he does," Rarity said.

"Awwâ€¦" Fluttershy cooed, "Heâ€¦ he's so sweet."

"He really is," Rarity said. "He really likes you, darling. There's no need to worry."

"And if it helps," Twilight said, "I think you and Coppermane are really cute together."

"Oh, I know!" Rarity exclaimed.

"You two are just adorable!" Sunset said.

Fluttershy felt her face heat up. It was great to know her friends were being so supportive of her new relationship. She remembered how Coppermane looked at her when they rendezvoused today. His eyes were gleaming, as if he had found diamonds. It made her feelâ€¦ pretty.

Rarity's phone buzzed in Fluttershy's hand, making her squeak. She handed it back so Rarity could look at the message herself.

Flash to Rarity, 4:35 PM****

Alright, I think Coppermane's alright now. We're in the arcade if you want to meet up with us.

_â€¦**_**

"Oh! Coppermane is fine now," Rarity said. "They're in the arcade."

"Should we go meet up with them then?" Twilight said.

"Let's get going," Sunset said.

And with that, the girls got up and headed to the arcade. Fluttershy could only hope Coppermane really was feeling better.

* * *

><p>Time: 4:40, Sunday, Canterlot Mall (Arcade)

The arcade was dark and illuminated by neon lights, making it somewhat hard to see. Even so, it wasn't hard to find the boys. Two familiar voices permeated throughout the arcade. The girls followed the voices to find two familiar boys playing skee ball.

"NO! I was so close to the 100!" Flash said.

"Aww, c'mon! Why'd I miss?! I only need a few more tickets!" Coppermane said.

"Hi, boys," Sunset said.

Coppermane and Flash turned around to see Rarity, Sunset, Fluttershy, and Twilight.

"Hey, girls," Flash said.

"Hey," Coppermane said. "I-I'm sorry about all the drama, girls."

"Don't worry, darling!" Rarity said. "We're just happy you're okay."

Coppermane smiled. At least he didn't completely ruin the day.

Twilight walked up to Flash, and watched as he played skee ball, asking him questions about the game logistics. Sunset and Rarity decided to go off and play some games themselves. Fluttershy walked up behind Coppermane to watch him play.

"Hi," Fluttershy said, giving him a side-hug.

"Hey," Coppermane said, hugging her back.

Fluttershy gave him a kiss on the cheek. She felt him hug her tighter, making her giggle. It made her so giddy to know she could kiss him whenever she wanted to!

"Are you feeling better?" Fluttershy asked.

"Yeah, I am," Coppermane said.

"I'm glad," Fluttershy said, nuzzling him.

Coppermane chuckled, and kissed Fluttershy on the forehead. She nuzzled him again in return, making his heart melt.

Fluttershy looked beside him to see tons of tickets.

"Are you going to get something from the prize corner?" Fluttershy asked. "That's a lot of tickets."

"I know. I'm trying to get something, and this is my last throw," he said, grasping a skee ball in his hand. Fluttershy released him, and watched as he threw the ball and landed it in the 100 cup.

"Yes!" Coppermane exclaimed as he watched the strip of tickets feed out.

"Great job, Coppermane!" Fluttershy said.

"Thanks," Coppermane said, scooping all the tickets up in his arms. "Why don't you come with me?"

Coppermane and Fluttershy walked to a machine to feed the tickets into. It fed out a receipt that read 504 tickets. They walked up to the prize counter, and Coppermane looked around.

"Could I have that one, please?" Coppermane asked the clerk, pointing to a big, white, brown-maned unicorn stuffed animal.

"You like stuffed animals?" Fluttershy asked.

"Oh, it's not for me," Coppermane said.

"Huh?"

The clerk handed the stuffed unicorn to Coppermane.

"Thanks," Coppermane said. He looked at Fluttershy, and held the stuffed unicorn out to her. "It's for you."

Fluttershy's eyes went wide. "Wh-What?"

"I won this for _you_," Coppermane said.

A smile slowly grew on Fluttershy's face. "R-Really?"

Coppermane smiled and nodded. "Yep."

Fluttershy suddenly let out a loud, girly squeal.

"Oh my goodness!" she exclaimed, happily taking the stuffed unicorn. She giggled as she held it tightly in her arms. "That's so sweet of you!" She hugged it tightly, and then brought it in front of her to rub noses with it as she giggled. "He looks just like you, Coppermane!" She went back to hugging it with the biggest smile on her face. She looked at Coppermane, and gave him a big smooch. She pulled him into a huge hug. "Thank you thank you thank you!"

Coppermane chuckled at how happy Fluttershy was. He knew a stuffed

animal would be perfect for an animal-lover like herself, but he never expected such a huge reaction.

"You're very welcome," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy hopped up and down as she hugged her new stuffed unicorn.

"He's so cute!" Fluttershy squealed, rubbing noses with it.

Coppermane could only smile. She looked so cute nuzzling her new gift.

"Well, I'm glad you like it, because that's just part one," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy's eyes went wide.

"P-Part _one_?" she cooed.

"Follow me," Coppermane said, holding his hand out.

"Okay," Fluttershy said, smiling. She took his hand, and Coppermane guided her out of the arcade. He brought her just outside the entrance to the arcade. "What is it, Coppermane?"

"Fluttershy, I feel terrible about all the drama today," Coppermane said. "I'm so sorry. I should've let you help me, and I completely shot you down. I feel like such a jerkâ€¦"

"Don't worry, Coppermane," Fluttershy said, placing her hand on his heart. "Just remember, if you ever need anything, I'm always here for you."

"Thank you, Fluttershy," Coppermane said, giving her a tender kiss. "But to make it up to you, I got you something."

"And I love it, Coppermane!" Fluttershy said, hugging her new stuffed unicorn. "Thank you so much!"

"Actually, it's not that," Coppermane said.

"What?" Fluttershy said.

"The stuffed unicorn was kind of a spur-of-the-moment thing. But I bought something _else_ for you beforehand," Coppermane said. He felt his nerves act up as he handed a shopping bag to her and watched her eyes go wide.

Fluttershy blinked. "Oh, Coppermane, you shouldn't haveâ€¦" she said, taking the bag. "Thank you so much. Can I open it now?"

Coppermane rubbed his neck. "S-Sureâ€¦" he said, feeling his face heat up.

Fluttershy giggled at his blushing. It was so cute! She handed her stuffed unicorn to Coppermane, and eagerly opened the bag to look inside. Her eyes widened when she pulled out a small jewelry box. She put the bag down, and held the box in her hand. She looked up at

Coppermane, who continued to blush. She giggled at him, making him blush even more. She returned her attention to the jewelry box, and slowly opened it up. What she saw took her breath away.

Inside the jewelry box was a gorgeous necklace. A polished silver chain with a medium-small sized teal pendant in the shape of a cherry blossom.

"C-Coppermaneâ€¦" Fluttershy cooed.

"D-Do you like it?" Coppermane asked.

Another big smile graced Fluttershy's face. "Iâ€¦ _love_ it," she said, giving Coppermane a big hug and a kiss on the cheek. "Thank you so much."

Coppermane hugged her back. Her reaction certainly wasn't as energetic as it was for her stuffed unicorn, but this one was great in its own way. It was a warmer, more intimate gesture, and Coppermane loved it just as much, if not more.

Fluttershy pulled away, and marveled at her new gift. "Umâ€¦ would you mindâ€¦ maybeâ€¦ putting it on for me? I meanâ€¦ only if you want toâ€¦" she said, feeling her face heat up.

Coppermane blinked. "Umâ€¦ y-yeah, of course." He traded her stuffed unicorn for the necklace, and gripped both ends of the chains. He walked up and brought the chains behind her neck.

Fluttershy gazed deep into his wonderful, chocolaty brown eyes as he put her new necklace on for her. She could've easily done it herself, but she wanted an excuse for him to play with her hair. And she was _loving_ it.

"I saw this while I was walking around, and I immediately thought of you," Coppermane said.

"Really?" Fluttershy cooed.

"Yeah," Coppermane said, clipping the ends of the chain together. He fixed her hair, and moved his hands down to her waist. "It's delicate, it matches your eyes, itâ€¦ it's prettyâ€¦"

Fluttershy felt her face heat up majorly as she smiled.

"You really think so?"

"I-I do," Coppermane said, moving his hand up to stroke her cheek. "You look gorgeous, Fluttershy."

Fluttershy felt herself blush even more, as if that was possible.

"Awwâ€¦ thank you," she said. "Y-You're spoiling me."

"Well, I-I really like spoiling you," Coppermane said, cupping her face.

Fluttershy giggled. "You're too sweet."

Coppermane smiled and leaned in to kiss her. She quietly moaned into his mouth as their lips met. He felt one of her hands on his heart, making it melt. Her lips were so tender and sweetâ€¦

They pulled away, and Coppermane blushed when he saw Fluttershy's blissful smile. It made him so happy to know he could kiss her whenever he wanted to.

"Can I show the others your gifts?" Fluttershy asked with a big smile.

Coppermane chuckled. "Of course."

"Yay!" Fluttershy squeaked. "Thank you so much again, Coppermane!" She gave him one more big smooch before running back into the arcade. Coppermane just chuckled. It was so cute when she was excited.

Coppermane walked back into the arcade, and watched as Fluttershy showed her gifts off to the others. That beautiful smile never left her face. Coppermane couldn't help but smile too. It felt so rewarding to make Fluttershy smile; to make her happy. Fluttershy looked over at Coppermane, and made eye contact with him. Coppermane darted his gaze away, scolding himself for staring. He slowly looked back up at Fluttershy, who was giggling at him. She blew him a kiss as her friends continued to gush over her gifts.

Coppermane loved seeing Fluttershy so happy.

And the group carried on with their mall visit. Coppermane walked around the mall, and he wasn't aloneâ€¦ or stressed. Instead, as he walked around and held his beautiful girlfriend's hand, he was happy.

Girlfriendâ€¦ girlfriendâ€¦ the word got more wonderful every passing second spent with Fluttershy. Coppermane couldn't wait to make Fluttershy smile again.

* * *

><p>And there's that! Hope you liked the rewrites I did here. I don't know when the next one will be out, but they probably won't be daily like I promised before. Sorry. I honestly don't know how I managed to pump them out daily in the beginning. Probably because they were only a couple-thousand words or so and I didn't proofread any of them. Anyways, all reviews are greatly appreciated, so don't forget to leave one letting me know what you think!**

Peace out.

To see a picture of my OC, there's a link on my profile.

8. Haven

Hey, people! I managed to squeeze another rewrite in before I really needed to start working on homework. Now, due to the sheer length of the next chapter, it might take a while for it to get rewritten, but I'll definitely get it done sooner or later. For now though, enjoy this rewrite! ** I don't own any of the MLP FiM

characters, but I DO own Coppermane. Enjoy!**

* * *

><p>Loveliest of Trees<p>

Ch.8: Haven

Time: 2:25 PM, **Monday**, CHS (Hallways), Days Until Formal: 12

Coppermane's first day back in school with his new girlfriend was everything he hoped it would be. During passing periods, he would meet up with Fluttershy just so he could look at her and kiss her before his next class. Just the notion of getting to kiss her after class gave him the motivation to keep going. Sometimes, their classes were in the same wing of the school, and he got to hold hands with her as they walked together. It was an amazing feeling to hold her hand as they walked. It was an opportunity to mark her in front of everyone in the school, and show them that Fluttershy was _his_.

He would also come to discover that pretty much all of his classes had one or more of Fluttershy's friends in it. Film Studies with Rarity, English with Rainbow Dash, Flash Sentry, and Pinkie Pie, Physics with Sunset, and Calculus with Rarity, Sunset, Applejack, and of course, Fluttershy. He also had a group to sit with at lunch now!

Coppermane stood with Fluttershy at her locker as she collected some things. She looked so pretty today. With autumn approaching, everyone was starting to dress a little warmer, and Fluttershy was no exception. She still wore her green skirt with butterflies and green boots, but instead of a white tank-top, she wore a tight long-sleeve shirt that showed her perfectly curved figure off. She wore white leggings, and finally she wore a green scarf that matched her skirt and boots. It was Coppermane's favorite part of her outfit. He's always liked scarves, and Fluttershy looked absolutely adorable with one. Then again, it was impossible for her _not_ to be adorable.

"You look really cute today, Fluttershy," Coppermane said.

Fluttershy's face went bright red. "Aww, thank you. You look nice too."

"I meanâ€¦ it's just a windproof jacket and some sweatpants," Coppermane said, blushing.

Fluttershy shut her locker, and got close to her boyfriend, placing her hand on his heart.

"Well, you look very cute in it," she said with a sweet smile.

Coppermane chuckled. "Thanks."

"Are you ready to go?" Fluttershy asked.

"Let's hit it," Coppermane said. He gave her a quick peck before

taking her hand in his, interlacing fingers. Then, the couple proceeded to the exit.

"Coppermane, why are your hands always so cold?" Fluttershy asked.

"I'm not sure," Coppermane said. "Does it bother you?"

"Oh no, not at all," Fluttershy said, squeezing his hand. "I was justâ€¦"

Suddenly, Coppermane was thrown roughly aside against the lockers. He was able to let go of Fluttershy's hand so she wouldn't get dragged with him, but the back of his head hit the lockers with a loud, metallic clang.

"Coppermane!" Fluttershy cried out.

"Happy Monday, loser!" a familiar voice bellowed.

"Still trying to go after the pretty ones, huh?" another familiar voice said. "Well, not on our watch."

Coppermane rubbed the back of his ringing head as he opened his eyes.

"You two again," he seethed through his teeth. His eyes shot fire when he saw them walking up to Fluttershy.

"Is he bothering you again?" Hoops asked, turning up the charm in his voice.

"We're sorry on his behalf," Score said, trying to put his arm around her. Fluttershy backed away to avoid his arm.

"H-He's not bothering me," Fluttershy said, continuing to back away as the bullies followed her.

Coppermane didn't let another second of this pass. Fluttershy looked terrified, and _nobody_would lay a finger on her as long as he still breathed. He walked up, and got in between the jocks and Fluttershy.

"Hey! Leave her alone," Coppermane said sternly. "Can't you see how scared she is?"

Hoops stifled a laugh. "Are you _seriously_ trying to stand up for her? _Again_?"

"You bet I am," Coppermane said.

Score got in his face, sizing him up. "And you think you have a chance against _us_?"

Hoops sized him up too. "A basketball player, _and_ a football player?"

Coppermane tried to maintain a tough face, even though his palms were sweating and his heart was pounding.

"I don't even know why losers like you even try," Hoop said. "Can't you see she's _way_ out of your league."

"Standing up for her isn't going to do anything to help your chances," Score said. "Why even bother? It's not like she's your girlfriend or anything."

Coppermane immediately grinned when he heard "girlfriend". He glanced behind him at Fluttershy, who stood with her knees bent inward and her hands in front of her, looking scared. Coppermane gave her a smile, and he could only assume she had heard the jocks as well, because when he smiled at her, she blushed and smiled back.

"Hey, wipe that smile off your face," Hoops said. "You know we're right."

"Actually," Coppermane said, "You're wrong,"

"Oh, come on," Score sneered. "What do you take us for? Stupid?"

"You're _wrong_," Coppermane reiterated. "Believe it or not, she _is_ my girlfriend."

Score stifled a laugh. "Oh, _wow_. Seriously? Do you honestly expect us to believe _that_?"

"Nice try, bro," Hoops said, "But we all know that there's no way that a girl like _her_ is yourâ€¦"

Coppermane suddenly turned around, and gave Fluttershy a passionate kiss right in front of the jocks. Fluttershy squeaked in surprise, but quickly relaxed into it. She wrapped her arms around his neck as she moaned into his mouth, moving her lips in rhythm with his.

The jocks' jaws hit the floor. She was _reciprocating_?! How was this happening?

Coppermane pulled away from Fluttershy's delicate lips, feeling proud when he saw her blissful smile. He walked behind her and wrapped his arms around her. She giggled as she leaned her head back on him as he held her.

Coppermane flashed a sly look at the jocks as he held his beautiful girlfriend in his arms.

"I'm not kidding, guys. She's all mine, and you can't have her," he said, giving Fluttershy a squeeze and a kiss on the cheek, making her giggle. It gave him such pride and joy to give her affection in front of the jocks. Fluttershy was _his_ and he would make it known to the jocks, no matter what.

Hoops and Score, though shocked, didn't budge, and began to walk up to the couple with less-than-thrilled expressions. Coppermane felt Fluttershy tense up in his arms.

"It's okay," Coppermane whispered in her ear, kissing her cheek again. He let go of her and got in between her and the jocks once more. "You keep your hands off her."

"And what are _you_ going to do about it, huh?" Score sneered.

"There's nothing to fight about," Coppermane said. "I already told you, she's mine. Nothing will change that."

"Well, how do you think you'll look to her when she sees you get pummeled by two strong, manly athletes, huh?" Hoops said, cracking his knuckles.

Coppermane started to sweat. He could feel his confidence dwindling. Could he handle this? Was he in over his head?

Noâ€¦ he had to stay strongâ€¦ for Fluttershy. He couldn't look weak in front of her.

"Y'know, I may be a wimp," Coppermane said, "But at least I'm not a giant asshole."

Coppermane immediately regretted saying that. Before he knew it, Hoops grabbed him by the shirt, and pinned him against the lockers with a loud, metallic bang.

"What the hell did you just call us?" Hoops sneered.

Score got in his face. "Nobody insults us and lives to tell the tale."

Coppermane's brain went into total panic mode. He braced himself for what the beating he was about to receiveâ€¦

"Hey! Hoops! Score!" a loud, angry voice called out. Hoops immediately released Coppermane, and backed away from him. Coppermane looked to see who called out, and saw a very angry-looking Rainbow Dash storming over to them. Fluttershy immediately rushed over to Coppermane to offer her condolence as Rainbow Dash chewed the jocks out.

"What the hell were you just doing?" Rainbow Dash shouted.

"Umâ€¦ h-hey, Cap," Hoops said.

"H-How's it going, Rainbow?" Score said.

"_Answer me_!" Rainbow yelled, making the jocks flinch. "Why did I catch you jumping my best friend just now?"

"Waitâ€¦ _friend_?" Score said.

"That loser is _friends_ with you?" Hoops beckoned.

"He's not a loser, and yes, he's my friend. And his girlfriend is too," Rainbow said with her arms crossed. "You still haven't answered my question. Why were you jumping him?!"

Hoops and Score exchanged nervous glances, looking like they were about to start pointing fingers.

"Wellâ€¦ umâ€¦ weâ€¦" Hoops stammered.

"You seeâ€¦ umâ€¦" Score stammered. "It was Hoops' idea!"

"_Really_? You're trying to pin the blame on _me_?" Hoops sneered. "You were the one who pushed him!"

"It was your idea!" Score remarked.

"You freaking volunteered to push him!" Hoops shouted.

"Because you wouldn't stop nagging me!" Score yelled.

"Enough!" Rainbow snapped. "How old are you guys? _Five_? Anyway, this ends _now_. If I catch_either_ of you harassing him, or _any_ of my friends, I'm kicking you both out of CHS sports. No arguments, and no questions asked," Rainbow said. "Now why don't you just get the hell out of here, huh?"

Hoops and Score clenched their fists in rage. But they couldn't talk back to their captain. They could only walk away as they began arguing amongst themselves, pointing fingers. Rainbow just rolled her eyes. She looked over at the couple. Fluttershy appeared to be rubbing Coppermane's shoulders.

"You two okay?" Rainbow asked.

"Yeah," Coppermane said. "Thanks."

"No prob," Rainbow said. "Those two have been on my radar for a long time. If they ever pick on you again, let me know, because I don't need guys like that giving CHS sports a bad rep."

"Certainly," Fluttershy said.

"Alright, gotta run. See ya," Rainbow said, rushing off to wherever.

Fluttershy continued to console her boyfriend, rubbing his shoulders. He felt very stiff.

"Are you okay, Coppermane?" Fluttershy asked.

"Umâ€¦ y-yeahâ€¦ I-I'm fine," Coppermane said, looking down at the ground.

"Are you sure?" Fluttershy asked, bringing his chin up.

Coppermane sighed. "Iâ€¦ I couldn't protect you."

"What?" Fluttershy cooed.

"They were about to beat me up. The only reason they didn't was because of Rainbow. I couldn't keep you safe on my own. I _am_ pathetic," Coppermane said, looking back down at the ground. What kind of boyfriend is he if he can't protect his girlfriend from harm?

Fluttershy felt a tug at her heartstrings as she listened to Coppermane berate himself. She could only think of one thing to cheer him up. She lifted her head to give him a loving kiss. She could feel his shoulders relax as her lips met his. She pulled away, and brought

her hand up to his face.

"Coppermane, don't say such things. You _tried_. That's all that matters," Fluttershy said, stroking his cheek. "You stood up to them, and that means the world to me. I don't think any less of you. I promise."

It took a moment, but Coppermane eventually smiled, and brought his hand up to touch Fluttershy's.

"Thanks," he said.

Fluttershy smiled, and lifted her head to kiss him again.

"Would a treat from the Sweet Shoppe make you feel better?" Fluttershy asked.

Coppermane offered a small smile. "That sounds nice."

Fluttershy giggled, and gave him one more peck before taking his hand once more. And with that, she walked with her boyfriend out of the school, eager to cheer him up.

* * *

><p>Time: 8:00 PM, Tuesday, Canterlot Park, Days Until Formal: 11_

Coppermane spent the entire school day on high alert. He was waiting all day for Hoops and Score to pounce on him at any time. Thankfully, it never happened, but Coppermane never let his guard down, _especially_ when he was with Fluttershy. He had to protect her at all costs. He'd be damned if anything happened to her because he wasn't paying attention. He knew Hoops and Score would be _pissed_ at him after yesterday, so he had to be on high alert no matter what. If not for his sake, then for Fluttershy's sake.

But now they were out of school, and Coppermane could finally relax. He could stop being so worried, and spend some quality time with his beautiful girlfriend as they walked through Canterlot Park together at dusk. In Coppermane's mind, it was the perfect time for a walk in the park. The twilight sky was providing just enough light to see around, but not too much to be blinding. The stars were barely coming out, and the moon began its majestic journey across the astral sea. The young autumn season the leaves with light shades of red and yellow, while some leaves still remained green. Such beauty, and now he had someone to share it with.

Coppermane took a glance at his gorgeous Fluttershy. The ambiance was beautiful, but Fluttershy, just by her mere presence, made it seem that much more beautiful. Her hair swayed so playfully in the light breeze. She was so pretty. How did Coppermane get such a lovely girl?

Fluttershy looked over at Coppermane to see that he was already looking at her. He darted his gaze away, blushing majorly. She could only giggle. He was just too cute!

"Coppermane?" Fluttershy cooed.

"Hmm?"

"Where are you taking me?"

"I told you, it's a surprise," Coppermane said with a smirk.

"Can you give me a hint?" Fluttershy beckoned.

Coppermane chuckled. "Nope. You have to wait."

Fluttershy whimpered. "Awwâ€¦ please?"

Coppermane bit his tongue when he saw Fluttershy make her puppy-dog face. She was too good at that. It worked almost every time.

"Not this time, Fluttershy," Coppermane said. Fluttershy whimpered again, making him chuckle. "We're almost there, don't worry."

Eventually, Coppermane brought Fluttershy before a small opening in the surrounding forest. He let go of Fluttershy's hand and took out a flashlight.

Fluttershy looked into the opening, and saw nothing but void. She bit her lip. Is this where they were going? The flashlight wasn't doing much to help ease her mind.

"Okay, follow me," Coppermane said.

"Umâ€¦ a-are you sure it's safe?" Fluttershy asked.

Coppermane looked at Fluttershy, and saw her holding her hands close, looking rather tense. He walked up to her.

"Fluttershy, you're going to love it in there. Don't be scared," Coppermane said. Fluttershy just looked past him into the opening, and whimpered. Coppermane took a look himself, and tried to see it through Fluttershy's eyes. He could understand why she would be scared. At first glance, it did seem rather eerie. But Coppermane knew there was something in there she would absolutely _love_.

"Fluttershy," Coppermane said, putting one hand on her waist and lifting her chin up with the other. "Don't worry. You're going to love it in there. There's nothing to be afraid of. I'll keep you safe. I promise."

Fluttershy looked into Coppermane's warm brown eyes, and felt her heartbeat quell. He _would_keep her safe, wouldn't he? She offered a small, timid smile, and placed her hand on his heart.

"O-Okay. I trust you."

Coppermane smiled, and gave her a tender kiss. He felt her relax once their lips met. He pulled away and offered his hand. She gladly took it, and interlaced their fingers.

Fluttershy squeezed Coppermane's hand as they ventured into the opening together, never letting go.

* * *

><p>"Okay, here we are," Coppermane said, looking back at Fluttershy. She had her head down.<p>

Fluttershy slowly brought her head up, and what she saw took her breath away.

It was a grove surrounded by dozens of cherry blossoms trees. The grass was covered with fallen cherry blossoms, and the sky above the grove was a breathtaking view of the night sky, completely unblocked.

"Coppermaneâ€¦ what is this place?" Fluttershy asked.

"You like it?" Coppermane asked, smiling as he brought her over to one of the trees.

"It's beautiful," Fluttershy said with a huge smile.

Coppermane smiled. _Almost as beautiful as you_.

He walked over to one of the cherry blossom trees, and sat up against it. He pat the spot in front of him, and Fluttershy gladly sat down. He wrapped his arms around her from behind, making her melt in his embrace. She laid back on his chest, moaning in bliss.

"I discovered this place a while back," Coppermane said. "I come here whenever I'm feeling sad or depressed. Soâ€¦ I'm here a lot."

"Awwâ€¦" Fluttershy whimpered, placing her hands over his, and squeezing them. "Does anyone else know about this place?"

"Actuallyâ€¦ no," Coppermane said. "You'reâ€¦ the first person I've ever brought here."

Fluttershy looked up at Coppermane's blushing face.

"Iâ€¦ I am?"

"Yeah," Coppermane said. "This has always been my safe haven fromâ€¦ wellâ€¦ everything. I've never shown it to anyone because this place is my only escape."

"Wellâ€¦ why did you bring me here, then?" Fluttershy asked.

"Becauseâ€¦ I wanted to thank you," Coppermane said, taking her hand.

Fluttershy squeezed his hand. "Thank me for what?"

"For everything," Coppermane said. "Last week, last weekend, everything. For saving my life, and for giving me a chance. You've done so much for me in such a short period of time, I wanted to find a special way to thank you. This place is very special to me, and I wanted to share it with someone just as special." He squeezed Fluttershy's hand. "I-I'm so glad I have you."

Fluttershy almost shed a tear. Something so special and close to his heartâ€¦ he wanted to share it with her? Did she deserve this kind of treatment?

"Coppermaneâ€¦ th-thank you so much. You're too sweet," Fluttershy said. She gave his hand a squeeze. "I'm so glad I have you too."

Coppermane's heart melted. He let go of her hand and brought it up to cup her face. He leaned in to give her a tender kiss. He felt her melt in his arms as their lips seamlessly molded together. He gently parted his lips, and Fluttershy snuggled up closer to him, resting her head on his chest as she let out a relaxed sigh.

Fluttershy felt so serene. The tranquility of the cherry blossom grove, the unblocked, astral night sky, and being in her loving boyfriend's arms gave her an amazing feeling of solace. He trusted her enough to share his only safe haven with her. Now, it was _their_ safe haven. The way he held her made her feel so safe. The silence was so peaceful. Could she just stay here forever in Coppermane's arms?

"Hey, Fluttershy?" Coppermane cooed.

"Hmm?"

"C-Can I ask you something?" Coppermane asked.

Fluttershy giggled, and looked up at him. "You can ask me anything, Coppermane."

"Well, I've already told you why I like you, and forgive me for sounding narcissistic, but I was just wonderingâ€¦"

"Yees?" Fluttershy coaxed.

"Why do you like me?" Coppermane asked. "I meanâ€¦ what did I do to win you over? I-I'm just curious, is all."

Fluttershy giggled at how red his face was. He was so adorable when he blushed!

"Well, when I first met you, I thought the way you acted shy was really cute. You seemed very nice and sweet. Then the next week, you were so nice to me. Spending time with me, protecting me from those mean bullies, offering me your hoodie so I wouldn't catch a cold, andâ€¦ I just thought you were the sweetest, cutest guy ever, and you still are."

Coppermane's face was bright red at what he was hearing. "Y-You thought I was _cute_? Even after youâ€¦ wellâ€¦ saw me crying like a baby after getting jumped?"

"You know, I actually like that you cry. It shows you have a sensitive side. I don't like guys who try to look tough in front of everyoneâ€¦ like those jocks. Those people are always just big meanies. But you? You're the most genuine guy I've ever met. _That's_ why I like you. You're justâ€¦ _you_. You don't try to be someone you're not. You're very honest with yourself, and that's admirable.

Crying doesn't mean you're weak, Coppermane. It means you have real heart. It's nothing to be ashamed of."

Coppermane couldn't believe what he was hearing. _That's_ why she liked him? It went deeper than he ever could've imagined. Crying was a sign of _heart_, and _not_ weakness?

"I-I never would've guessed," Coppermane said. "Thatâ€¦ that's really sweet, Fluttershy. Thank you so much."

Fluttershy squeezed her boyfriend's hands. "You're a wonderful guy, Coppermane. You're smart, sweet, kind, andâ€¦" She nuzzled his chest, "You're mine."

Coppermane's heart melted. He looked down and was met with her beautiful, affectionate smile. He smiled back and gave her a light squeeze in his arms.

"I wouldn't want to be anyone else's."

Fluttershy's heart melted at those words. She felt his lips on her cheek, making her giggle. She turned her head to meet his lips with her own. Kissing him was the only thing better than cuddling with him. His tender lips would never stop feeling amazing. Coppermane pulled away, and Fluttershy gazed deeply into his warm, chocolaty brown eyes.

"Wowâ€¦" Coppermane murmured.

"What?" Fluttershy cooed.

"You're eyes."

"Wh-What about them?"

Coppermane lifted his hand to cup her face.

"They're beautiful."

Fluttershy's heart melted again as a big smile graced her face.

"Awwâ€¦ Coppermaneâ€¦" she cooed as he leaned in to give her another tender kiss, making her melt even more. She relaxed her body, allowing Coppermane to lead the kiss. She moved her lips perfectly in sync with every movement of his. She felt so prettyâ€¦ and so lovedâ€¦

Coppermane gently pulled away, and caressed her face as she rested her head back on his warm chest. He squeezed her in his arms, and gave her a kiss on the forehead. A tear escaped Fluttershy's eye. How can one guy be so affectionate?

Coppermane wouldn't want to be anywhere else. It felt amazing to hold Fluttershy in his arms. She looked absolutely adorable lying on his chest, and her body provided all the warmth he needed. Every breath he took was filled with the sweet scent of her beautiful hair.

Everything was just perfectâ€¦

* * *

><p>As much as Coppermane wanted to stay here with Fluttershy in his arms for all eternity, he knew he couldn't. Unfortunately, they both had school tomorrow, and needed to get her home. He looked down to tell Fluttershy that it was time to goâ€¦ only to find that she had fallen asleep.<p>

Coppermane chuckled, but not too much to wake her up. It was flattering to know she felt safe enough in his arms to drift off.

But how was he going to get her back to the car without waking her up?

It didn't take long for him to hatch an idea. It would be risky, but it just might work. Carefully he stood up, and scooped Fluttershy up into his arms, carrying her bridal-style. Coppermane took a moment to just watch her sleep as he held her. She was just too cute when she was asleep. He gave her a kiss on the forehead before proceeding into the forest opening.

* * *

><p>Just when Coppermane got to his car, Fluttershy stirred in his arms.<p>

Fluttershy moaned as she rubbed the sleep out of her eyes. She looked up, and saw her boyfriend's face.

"C-Coppermane?" Fluttershy said groggily.

"Hey," Coppermane said. "Sleep well?"

"Wh-Where am I?" Fluttershy asked. She felt strangelyâ€¦ weightless. It took her a moment to realize what was going on. Coppermane wasâ€¦ _carrying_ her. She looked up at him with wide eyes. He offered a warm smile.

"Don't worry. I've got you," Coppermane said.

"Wh-What happened?" Fluttershy cooed.

"You fell asleep back in the grove," Coppermane said. "I was trying to get you back to the car without waking you up butâ€¦ sorryâ€¦"

"Oh, it's fine, Coppermane," Fluttershy said. "If you wanted toâ€¦ you could've just woken me up. I wouldn't have minded. You didn't have to carry me."

"I knowâ€¦ butâ€¦ Iâ€¦ I kind of wanted to," Coppermane said, blushing.

Fluttershy felt her face heat up, and nuzzled his chest.

"That's so sweet of you," Fluttershy said. She wouldn't deny that she _loved_ being held like this.

"Well, unfortunately, I kind of have to put you down now so you can get in the car," Coppermane said.

"Ohâ€¦ o-okayâ€¦" Fluttershy said. Coppermane slowly lowered her, but she could feel the hesitance in his arms. Did he really like holding her that much?

With that, the couple got in the car and were bound for home. What a wonderful nightâ€¦

* * *

><p>Time: 10:00 PM, Tuesday, Fluttershy's House

Fluttershy asked Coppermane if he could carry her to the front door, and Coppermane happily obliged. There was something about being carried by him that she just loved. He set her down at her front door, and they took a moment just to gaze into each other's eyes.

Fluttershy didn't want this night to end. Coppermane has been so nice to her. She couldn't stop thinking about when he told her she had pretty eyes. It made her heart melt every time. When she was with Coppermane, she felt beautiful.

But there was something that Fluttershy was still wracking her brain about. The reason for his secret sanctuary. Nobody should need a secret sanctuary to escape from life. Nobody should ever be brought to that position. But Coppermane has, and he had people like Hoops and Score to thank.

Fluttershy just didn't understand why anybody would want to hurt such a sweet guy. It made her sick to know there are people like that out thereâ€¦ torturing her Coppermane.

"Coppermane?" Fluttershy asked.

"Yeah?" Coppermane said.

"Can I ask you something?"

"Of course," Coppermane said. "You can ask me anything."

Fluttershy bit her lip. "Umâ€¦ it's about Hoops and Score."

"Okay," Coppermane said. "What about them?"

"Umâ€¦ areâ€¦ are they going toâ€¦ interfere with us?" Fluttershy asked, placing her hand on his heart.

"What do you mean?" Coppermane asked, placing his hand over hers.

"I just can't stop thinking about all the times they've tried to hurt you. Thenâ€¦ they keep trying to get close to me, and then they try to touch me, andâ€¦ I-I'm just scared of them," Fluttershy said, gripping tighter onto Coppermane.

Coppermane sighed. He absolutely hated himself for dragging Fluttershy into this mess. The thought of Hoops and Score hitting on Fluttershy and being disrespectful to her made his blood boil. But

this is the decision he made, and he had to honor it by doing whatever it took to protect his Fluttershy. She was his princess, and nobody would lay a finger on her.

Coppermane leaned in to give Fluttershy a tender kiss. He felt her relax her grip upon making contact with her lips. He gently pulled away, and brushed the hair out of her face.

"Fluttershy, you don't have to worry about those jerks interfering with us. You know why?"

"Why?"

"Because I won't let them," Coppermane said, placing his hands on her waist and pulling her close. "You're mine now, and that means I will do everything in my power to protect you. I'll fight those bullies if I have to."

"F-Fight? But Coppermane, what about what happened at your old school? What aboutâ€¦"

"Shhâ€¦" Coppermane said, putting his finger on her lips. "All that matters to me is that you're safe. I promise, no matter what, I will do everything to make sure no harm comes your way."

Fluttershy couldn't help but break into a big smile. She even teared up a little. He's already proven twice that he'll protect her in spite of his own fear, and it didn't look like he was about to let up anytime soon.

Fluttershy put her hands on his shoulders. "Coppermane, you're just the sweetest guy in the world."

Coppermane's face flushed bright red. "Wellâ€¦ I meanâ€¦ I tryâ€¦"

Fluttershy giggled, and gave him a kiss on the cheek.

"Well, you do a very good job," she said with a sweet smile.

Coppermane's face heated up even more. Fluttershy giggled at his blushing, making him blush even more. He smiled and pulled her into a passionate kiss. He felt her hands cup his face as he squeezed her in his arms. No matter what, he would always protect his most precious.

He pulled away, and was met with Fluttershy's blissful smile. She pulled him into a big, warm hug. Coppermane wasted no time in wrapping his arms around her tightly.

"Thank you for an amazing date, Coppermane," Fluttershy said.

"Anytime, Fluttershy," Coppermane said. "The pleasure was mine."

Fluttershy nuzzled his chest before pulling back to gaze into his eyes.

"Good night, Coppermane," Fluttershy said.

"Good night, Fluttershy," Coppermane said. He gave her one more peck before Fluttershy unlocked her front door and walked inside. Coppermane didn't start walking away until he heard the door click. He wanted to imprint every last detail of her beauty in his mind before he left. Once the mechanism clicked, he started walking back to his car.

He stopped about halfway between to take one last look at her front door. Funnyâ€¦ it hasn't even been a full minute yet, and he already missed her. He couldn't wait to make her smile tomorrow.

He blew her a final kiss before he continued walking to his car. He looked up at the stars, and all he saw was Fluttershy's beautiful eyes.

* * *

><p>Time: 3:45 PM, Wednesday, Days Until Formal: 10_

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 3:45 PM_********

Pinkie Pie, can I ask you for a favor?

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 3:47 PM_********

Of course! What do you need?

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 3:50 PM_********

It's kind of a big favor. Are you sure?

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy 3:52 PM_********

Does it involve a party? :) :) :)

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 3:56 PM_********

Actually, yes it does :)

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 3:57 PM_********

Oh perfect! :D What kind of party?

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 4:01 PM_********

Well, I found out Coppermane's birthday is this Friday, and I was hoping we could get everybody together to throw him something.

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 4:05 PM_********

Likeâ€¦ a surprise party?!

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 4:08 PM_********

Yes, something like that. I want to do something special for him :)

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 4:15 PM_********

Okay, I've got everything planned out! Friday, surprise slumber party, my house, right after school. You bring Coppermane there, and we'll surprise him! Cake, ice cream, punch, music, games, maybe I can break out the Cards? He'll love it, and I know the rest of the gang will love it too! What do you think? :D :D :D

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 4:18 PM_********

Oh, a slumber party?

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 4:20 PM_********

Why not? One condition though. The girls and boys sleep in separate rooms, just soâ€¦ things don't happen, if ya know what I mean ;D

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 4:23 PM_********

Pinkie, it's only been a few days. You're making me blushâ€¦

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 4:25 PM_********

Heehee, I'm sorry! It's just fun to tease you. You two are so cute together! Anyway, does that sound like fun to you? :D

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 4:28 PM_********

That sounds lovely! Should we tell the others after rehearsal tomorrow?

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 4:35 PM_********

Oh, I already told them, and they love it!

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 4:38 PM_********

Wow, really? That was fast.

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 4:41 PM_********

When a party's involved, you have to get started right away. We're going to make this the best birthday party Coppermane's ever had!

********_Fluttershy to Pinkie Pie, 4:45 PM_********

Thank you so much, Pinkie. This will mean a lot to him.

********_Pinkie Pie to Fluttershy, 4:47 PM_********

No problem! This is so exciting! :D :D :D :D :D :D :D

__â€¦****

* * *

><p>And there you have it. I just really wanted to write something with Coppermane carrying Fluttershy bridal-style. I just think it's really cute when couples do that. Anyways, all reviews are greatly appreciated, so don't forget to leave one letting me know what you thought.**

Peace out.

To see a picture of my OC, there's a link on my profile.

End
file.